

VOL. VII

MARCH-APRIL 1958

No. 2

# *Italian* DOCUMENTS AND NOTES AFFAIRS

*THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY  
ENQUIRY INTO LABOUR CONDITIONS IN ITALY*

*THE ITALIAN RED CROSS*

*THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF ARTS  
AND COSTUME*

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R O M E

PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC  
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*This Handbook, which contains factual and statistical information about Italy compiled from official and authoritative sources, is not intended to be exhaustive, but to provide basic data on the main aspects of Italian life.*

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## THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY INTO LABOUR CONDITIONS IN ITALY

### Factory Councils and their Meaning in Industry

The survey made by the Parliamentary Commission into labour conditions in Italy was described in the January issue of "Italian Affairs" and an explanation given as to the methods which were used to obtain full and dependable evidence (1).

On December 31, 1957, the Parliamentary Commission handed over its final report to the Speakers of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The reports were divided as follows: a) Factory Councils; b) Work at home; c) Contracts with termination clauses; d) Contracting; e) Apprentices, and a complete legal Record on Labour questions.

The following is a summary of the report drafted by the Commission.

#### Factory Councils

The question of factory councils was widely examined throughout industry, although the Commission made every effort to collect material from other economic sectors including trade and banking, insurance, shipping companies and port authorities, State administered undertakings and private and public transport.

In other words, the Commission followed the principle that, when investigating the economic and social conditions prevalent in Italy, attention should be paid to the conditions existing in all sectors, so that a really accurate picture could be obtained.

Because of this, special sub-reports on conditions existing in other sectors examined during the survey have been inserted in the general memorandum.

The quantity of material collected called for considerable work in final selection and editing with the result, however, that all the various matters which came to the fore during the survey were eventually broken down and classified.

The result was about 200 main headings, but they included all the data, information, news, reports and viewpoints which the Commission had been able to obtain during the time it was at work. Every conceivable source was investigated and the outcome is a report which contains the viewpoints of all the persons questioned, irrespective of their social condition or type of employment.

Each of the questions dealt with, therefore, may be compared to a mosaic of which the pattern, with its various shades of colour, has

(1) See: *A Parliamentary enquiry into labour conditions in Italy* - «Italian Affairs», Vol. VII, No 1, pp. 2009-2018.



been brought to the attention of Parliament and public opinion. By following this system, the Commission lived up to its determination not to treat the survey as a means for supplying evidence for academic discussion and eventually built up a picture which showed prosaic facts and figures against a background of stark reality.

The juridical background of the regulations covering the creation and functioning of Factory Councils, established under labour union contracts, was merely used as a reference. This was a starting point for enquiries into the extent of the factory councils, whether they were limited in different economic sectors, how well they functioned, what duties they performed, whether they were subject to opposition which eventually reduced their efficiency, the general impressions of management and labour towards them, their relations with management, the trades unions, individual workers and whether they were really appreciated.

The Commission has not failed to introduce the evidence offered by every group. Explanatory notes have been included which clarify much of the available material and assist in further examination. Every effort has been made to accompany this evidence with statistics which, cancelling any attempt at generalities, help the reader to weigh up the quantitative and qualitative relations existing between the various situations which have been objectively described and unilaterally marked down.

\* \* \*

The Commission was fully agreed in recognizing and emphasizing that the role played by the Factory Councils has been very positive although there have been many difficulties and misunderstandings, lengthy struggles and uncertainty as to the specific tasks to be undertaken. The Commission has expressed its opinion that these Factory Councils are of great importance to the social progress of Italy.

The creation of a Factory Council within the factory, to act as the representative of the worker, gives that factory a diverse character for it can no longer be considered merely as an organization which has productive aims only. Nor can it pursue a policy in which management imposes its will without discussion and makes decisions which are entirely dictated by economic considerations. The presence of the Factory Council, as a representative organ of the workers, does not alter the juridical nature and the functions of the establishment which maintains its traditional objectives, but it most certainly does introduce social factors and brings the human question to the fore.

From the completely human viewpoint, labour assumes a different role in the factory, for it now has its own, independent, representation. The individual is already protected, but as part of a community

he is also able to enjoy further protection, for he is part of an organic body which is firmly tied to other factors which determine the positive aims of the establishment, that is, production or some other economic activity.

It is clear that the introduction of such representation into the organization of any industrial undertaking should take place according to a law which must be in harmony with, and not contradictory to, the chief role of that undertaking. Obviously, such a representative body must not undermine responsibility or try to influence the principles of normal administration and management, which are the basis of any organization employing persons holding different positions.

Thus it is that the factory appears as a confluence for various elements which, according to their status, are all working towards the same objective. The proprietor, who has created this source of employment, furnished the necessary capital for premises, installations and functioning; management, which is responsible for all technical organization and superintends productive activity; finally, labour which collaborates in productive activity. It is only just to point out that relations between these various levels are governed by social legislation and by the increasingly stricter clauses of collective contracts. In other words, much of the internal life of a factory is decided outside its boundaries, either through specific legislation or by virtue of labour union agreements. In the case of the latter, conditions are fixed according to the category of the workers and it is here that the indispensable work of the union comes into its own for, through discussion and agreement, it seeks to obtain the best conditions possible.

Within the factory, however, the abstract meaning of the laws in force becomes reality and governs and guides individual and collective relations between management and labour. The modification of laws into definite rights of the workers is no longer based on the discretion of the employer but follows the intervention of the Factory Councils which are the permanent representative organ of labour.

The Factory Council takes care that the laws and contracts are applied in the correct manner. It has the right, when necessary, to take up matters with the factory management and to report, if circumstances so call for such action, all transgressions to the competent State authorities.

But there are other essential tasks attributed to the Factory Council. There are many questions over which current legislation is limited and a great deal of liberty is left to the employer. Such questions are: beginning and ending of work shifts, vacations and the time during which they are to be taken, adoption of new wage systems, etc. Here again, the action of the employer is tempered by the presence



of the Factory Council with which management must hold preliminary discussions and carry out a thorough examination of the proposed new rules. In this case, the Factory Council expresses the opinion of labour and points out the best way of reaching solutions which will reconcile the demands of labour organization with the human requirements of the workers.

Relations between labour and management, on the other hand, are not always smooth. There are often cases of conflict and disagreements of a collective and individual nature. But, once again, the Factory Council is called upon to play an important role, for it listens to the complaints of the interested parties, gives its support to those whom it considers have presented the best case and seeks a path which offers the best means of settlement. Finally, within the limits of the factory, social undertakings are expanding more and more with the intent of satisfying the human demands of the workers: canteens, first-aid centres, nursery-welfare centres, recreative clubs, sports clubs, cultural organizations, etc. The Factory Council can, and does, make a valuable contribution to such activities and can investigate their functioning and endeavour to improve existing conditions.

In other words, the presence of the workers, represented by the Factory Council, is felt throughout all branches of the factory in matters which relate to labour conditions. The workers are no longer passive subjects but, through their representatives, are able to discuss and decide on many of the problems which assail relationships between management and labour. Management, after all, is keenly interested in knowing the opinion of its dependents, can profit from useful suggestions and, in any case, can always have early information on possible reactions to new rulings which are introduced. The Factory Council, therefore, does undoubtedly contribute towards balancing the decisions taken by management.

It may be claimed that all this is so in theory but that practice proves otherwise. This is true in part, for sometimes the disagreements and misunderstandings produce tense situations which are entirely opposite to the effect desired. But it is also true that, in most cases, the usefulness of these councils has been generally recognized a fact which is proved by the many reports existing on this argument. The essential point is this: the Factory Council will fulfil its functions with increasing ability as long as it collaborates with management in observing the principles of the interfederal agreement which sets out the functions and duties of both and stipulates the idea of mutual understanding.

The presence of a Factory Council, apart from denoting the evolution in juridical, economic and social ideas which has taken place

has also been responsible for considerable improvements in industry. For instance, the survey brought to light the fact that legislation and labour contracts are observed more fully when the Council is on hand to control such matters. In other terms, the very existence of the Factory Council is an incentive to greater respect for laws and contracts, for the powers embodied in it and its ability to report any evasion of responsibility calls for an exact application of all the relative norms.

The Council is also useful in uncovering practical problems which relate to the adaption of abstract ruling to concrete situations, using methods which correspond to the interests of the factory. Considerable material is always available, therefore, during subsequent trades union discussions on the drafting of contracts and agreements.

Acting in such a manner, the Factory Council makes a valid contribution towards the creation of a well-balanced administration, a factor which came to light during the survey carried out by the Parliamentary Commission. The evidence and information offered during the enquiry showed that most discussions and controversies centered around questions of wages and salaries, trade qualification, piece-work, etc. and there are now distinct signs that more objective rulings are being introduced.

Another positive element which emerged from the Commission's investigation is that the Factory Council, if it is to perform its task to the full, must have a wide knowledge of labour laws and contracts. The many workers who are members, or who aspire to become members, are therefore forced to prepare themselves adequately for the position they hope to attain. To tell the truth, in certain cases, the preparation of these workers has not been equal to the responsibilities they have assumed, but even then they are generally far more informed than the rest of the labour force.

■ Through a gradual process, an ever-increasing number of workers is obtaining a much better insight into the world in which they are employed. With a better understanding of the legislation and contractual clauses which immediately concern them, they can inform others of the correct interpretation and method of approach in the event of disagreement.

To all this should be added the fact that, during discussions with management representatives, members of the Factory Council are able to hear counter-proposals, reasons and explanations pertinent to the requirements of labour organization and productivity. This, logically, enables them to make a critical summary of all the issues raised and means that their final decisions are considerably more balanced, for



there is now every reason to seek technical solutions which will still consider their human and social demands.

With time, this will produce excellent results and will most certainly contribute towards creating an atmosphere of greater understanding. Management will be compelled to pay more attention to the human and social significance of the rulings it seeks to impose, while the Factory Council will certainly not ignore technical and productive requirements.

\* \* \*

Turning now to the actual distribution of Factory Councils throughout the various economic sectors, attention must be paid to the material collected during the survey, the statistical evidence which has been offered and the statements which have been accepted. Such an examination will bring to light the objective and subjective difficulties relating to a wider use of Factory Councils in industry.

In spite of what has already been said, there is but little doubt that one of the principal limitations to the widespread adoption of these Councils is that of the very labour agreements which created and recognized them.

The lack of suitable legislation to fully apply Article 39 of the Constitution has also had a negative influence. All companies which are not members of Employers Associations have been chiefly inspired by a desire to escape the obligations of collective contracts and, therefore, it is only natural that there is little hope of them recognizing the Factory Councils.

Further, it should also be understood that, although Factory Councils are normally to be found in big industrial concerns, the percentage gradually drops as one passes to medium and small industry. In most cases, pressure by labour to form such councils is generally in proportion to the size of the establishment.

In small industry, there are two important elements which hinder the creation of the Factory Council. The first is that there is a much greater possibility of direct contact between the employer and individual workers and, because of this, the Council, at least from the employer's viewpoint, is less necessary. Secondly, it is much more difficult to find suitable elements to form such a Council in an establishment which employs a minimum number of persons and it is also a hard task to find those who are prepared to accept a position which makes them more exposed than their colleagues.

Apart from these considerations which are relative only to the size of the establishment, it has also been discovered that there are certain employers who show a pre-conceived hostility towards the Fac-



tory Council. They view it as an organ which contrasts the absolute power of management and prefer the method of making concessions when forced to do so. There are also those employers who have had some unfortunate experiences, either directly or indirectly.

Such an attitude not only hinders the creation of the Factory Council but also influences the functioning and activity of those which have already come into existence. The consequences may differ, but the starting point is always the same and it is the starting point which has to be carefully considered. This will be dealt with later in this report, together with elections, while the question of wider use of the Factory Council will be examined in relation to its juridical recognition.

Returning to the problem of the limited use of the Factory Council, the survey brought to light the fact that many obstacles to their institution and functioning are to be found in particular economic sectors, such as building, seasonal industries and, in general, in all undertakings in which labour relations are of short duration. The truth is that the Councils are more likely to flourish and operate in those establishments with a large and stable labour force, a statement which is so obvious that it needs no further illustration.

Finally, the Parliamentary Commission, during its survey, noted that the only sector in which Factory Councils do not exist and are not contemplated by any union agreement, is agriculture. Objectively, it must be recognized that labour relations in this particular productive field are precarious. The agricultural labourer is, to all extents and purposes, hired by the day. Because of this, any attempt at organizing a representative organ for persons employed in this sector would only be possible in the case of large, well-organized, agricultural centres with a stable labour force.

\* \* \*

The Parliamentary Commission investigated another very important element in relation to Factory Councils: the election of members.

By taking part in the voting, the labour force becomes conscious of its individual importance, exercises a critical spirit when summarizing the propaganda to which it is subjected and seeks to choose those solutions which will furnish the best results instead of others which may be based on questions of principle.

By having the right to vote, with all the guarantees of secrecy, the labour force also becomes aware of the fact that real democracy is expressed through this very right and, therefore, the elections assume great importance when rules are strictly observed and all the necessary guarantees offered. Exercised within the limits of the factory, they also have a great influence on the general labour union attitude,

for every worker participates irrespective of his position and regardless of whether he is a member of particular unions.

It must be realized that, in spite of the difficulties and contrasts, which have sometimes reached dramatic proportions, discussions between employers and labour unions from 1947 to the present day, with the exception of the modifications introduced in 1953, have constantly led to renewal of the agreements which govern the functioning of the Factory Council and maintain the principles of the Buozzi-Mazzini accord of September 2, 1943.

Other forms of agreement have also been stipulated in different economic sectors and the network of Factory Councils has thus slowly extended. This points to the fact that employers' organizations and labour unions are becoming convinced that these Councils are no longer an experiment but a structure which has come to stay after a period of trial and error.

All these considerations led the Parliamentary Commission to express the opinion that the existence of the Factory Councils is of great value to the productive establishment. It also recommended that they be maintained, that every effort be made to ensure that they retain the spirit which led to their foundation, and that they become more and more efficient in their functioning and purpose.

\* \* \*

It is now opportune to make some remarks about the election of Factory Councils.

These remarks, however, are not intended as a summary of what was discussed, emphasized, reported or examined during the survey, or as an exposition of the vast material which has been included in that part of the final report concerned with elections. Those who are desirous of obtaining a better understanding should turn to the Commission's final considerations, which will inform them of the whole procedure and the various circumstances which generally influence such elections.

With this in mind, it should be stressed that in most cases the electoral rules are rigidly applied and procedure takes place in accordance with the guarantees furnished, the worker casting his ballot freely and in secret. Some questions have been raised over the participation of apprentices in the elections for the Factory Councils, as also for those who have been temporarily suspended for some infraction of the rules. There has also been a query about the distribution of seats between white-collar workers and the technical staff. But apart from these questions, which have not yet been solved, very few cases have been taken to the trades union organizations although existing regulations permit this.



There are two points, however, which are worthy of comment. In certain cases the re-election of the Factory Council has been retarded and in others, there have been attempts to impede the presentation of certain union lists.

The importance of the question of delays is dealt with in the Parliamentary Commission's report which also points out the various reasons which cause them. There is also ample evidence on the problem of blocked lists, and references to such attempts being made when the CISNAL has put forward its own representatives. These are isolated cases, however, and in many factories the participation of the CISNAL has not given rise to any controversy.

Delays and attempts to prevent certain lists from standing for election are mostly due to the fact that the only body presiding over the elections is the Electoral Committee, which is composed of representatives of the various accepted lists.

The Parliamentary Commission has expressed its opinion that it would be opportune to create a special Control Committee, or an Appeal or Arbitration Board which would be responsible for arranging the elections, if necessary, superintending controversies over the presentation of lists and, if so asked, supervising the actual elections.

Since the labour offices are normally responsible for arbitrating in labour disputes, these same offices could be assigned such a task, special legislation being approved if it should prove impossible to give them the authority through normal administrative channels. Further, the fact that the Factory Councils be governed by labour union agreements should not prove an insurmountable barrier. The rules which confer the task of controlling and supervising the elections might also state that such duties must be carried out when a Council is to be created in a factory. This, of course, would only apply in the event of the Factory Council not being recognized by a special law. Alternatively, special Arbitration Councils could be brought into being to carry out the task already mentioned and this would be a throw-back to the old arbitration boards which proved to be so beneficial during the early years of this century.

\* \* \*

Still in terms of the elections, the Parliamentary Commission expressed the view that the Factory Councils should remain in office for a minimum period of two years. It was the opinion that yearly elections tend to produce a somewhat unstable character. Several months are required to prepare for the elections, time is needed to draw up a programme, and thus but a short period remains to the Council to carry out its duties in a methodical and normal manner.

The most delicate aspect of the elections is not that concerned with the actual casting of the vote (very important in itself) which does not give rise to any special circumstances. It is the phase which immediately precedes voting which is so complex. The report drawn up by the Parliamentary Commission refers to it as the period of « electoral propaganda » but this term does not merely embrace the customary phase of indoctrination. It also refers to the contrasts and rivalry which spring up, to external intervention and pressure and attempts to influence balloting. Obviously, the task of trying to determine certain limits for electoral propaganda is an extremely arduous one, for any campaign must respect order and discipline within the factory and the workers must observe their regular shifts. On the other hand, it is only natural that pre-electoral fervour sometimes means that meetings are held during work shifts, in breaks or outside the factory. This leads to intervention by foremen and shop-stewards which, in turn, provokes the rancour of those who have been reprimanded. But it is extremely difficult to really ascertain if reported cases of intimidation are not sometimes legitimate intervention over infractions of rules. There is no doubt, however, that when a question of dismissal is involved a decision by an arbitration board would be of great value. In most cases, and in the interest of the persons concerned, preference is given to a friendly agreement and the award of an extra-contractual indemnity.

\* \* \*

Incidents which may occur prior to, and during, elections for Factory Councils are not common and statements which have been made on this subject, and subsequent evidence produced, leads to the conclusion that in the majority of factories matters proceed smoothly and without the intervention of illegal pressure designed to sway results. But this does not mean that they do not happen. Although not widespread, their extent is sufficient to cause preoccupation, the more so as some of the biggest plants are involved.

Such incidents consist of attempts by management to persuade certain elements to refrain from presenting themselves for election, through disciplinary action, transfer, etc. There are also episodes of violence and threats by agitators and outside pressure on dependents.

Such happenings, particularly the first, cannot be considered by themselves and must be examined in relation to the more general problem of relations between management and the Factory Councils. Due attention must also be given to the composition of the Councils, individual members and their knowledge of trades union affairs.

In conclusion, it may be said that the elections for the Factory Councils are held on the basis of lists of candidates which represent



all trades union currents and this gives rise to sharp competition which produces reflexes outside the immediate boundaries of the factory. Nor should it be forgotten that, during the past ten years, there has been a hard struggle to emerge from a difficult situation which succeeded the end of hostilities, and many large industries have now reached a stage which can be considered more or less normal.

The initial period was marked by widespread political activity within the factories and the pressure applied often resulted in heated contrasts which at times led to episodes of violence. Such a climate brought constant confusion to relations between the political organizations in the factory, the various trades unions and the Factory Councils. Such precedents still exercise a certain influence on the position of these Councils and affect relations between them and the single trades union movements and between them and management.

Much of the return to normal has been due to the efforts of the workers themselves, but during the period of transition there have been examples of intervention, attempts at persuasion and sudden decisions on the part of management. Certainly, it is not easy to ascertain at what point such intervention or persuasion has been aimed exclusively at bringing order and discipline to the factory or calling the attention of agitators to their responsibilities. Nor has it been really possible to say whether management was aiming at bringing direct influence to bear on electoral results and put obstacles in the way of the normal activity of the Factory Councils.

The explanations contained in the report drawn up by the Parliamentary Commission give an idea of the attempts made to tamper with the elections, but also show that such action is limited.

The Parliamentary Commission, reporting on what has taken place, observed that it deplored all forms of interference which constitute illicit pressure on individual workers, since they have a negative effect on production as a result of unjustified disciplinary action, transfers, or even dismissal. Once again, the Commission stated that in the event of such occurrences, there should be every chance of appeal to arbitration boards, as in the case of the Factory Councils, and declared itself of the opinion that any discrimination by management among the persons elected is contrary to the spirit of the inter-federal agreement.

According to the terms of the labour union agreements, management must maintain relations with the Factory Council and must allow all members to carry out those duties inherent to their position.

The report drawn up by the Parliamentary Commission contains ample documentation on this point which is discussed and set out in external negotiations and agreements.

\* \* \*

The Parliamentary report also contains full information on the places and number of meetings, permission to hold reunions, registration of members, possibility of circulating among the various shops, etc. accorded the Factory Councils. However, it does appear that the possibilities foreseen by the labour union agreements are inadequate to the responsibilities of the Factory Councils, particularly in large factories where there are many workshops. It is to be hoped that, at least in the case of these large factories, custom will gradually take form of appropriate legislation to be introduced through national contracts and local agreements, which will give the Councils greater liberty of action.

\* \* \*

An examination of the work carried out by the Factory Councils reveals that it is more often than not directed towards obtaining better conditions from management. In this case, the Parliamentary report contains extensive documentation on the contractual aims of the Councils, but the Commission itself maintained that there should be better coordination between the functions of trades unions and those of the Factory Councils. The Factory Councils must not lose their character of organizations which have been formed to decide on collective rules which must govern labour relations within the factory. Although it is hoped that the trades union organizations will use the experiences of the Factory Councils when putting forward their claims and stipulating contracts, the Factory Councils must also use the unions to obtain improvements at factory level and discuss such questions with representatives.

Limited authority may be given the Councils over matters concerning questions which are their immediate responsibility and the application of regulations concerning contractual obligations, for in this way they will be able duly to consider the labour organization of each factory and make the necessary modifications which will ensure smooth operation. But it must be clearly understood that the union agreements instituting the Factory Councils do not contemplate that these have any authority in questions relating to contracts and agreements. Experience has shown that this ruling has not been obeyed but the Parliamentary Commission was of the opinion that such a tendency cannot be ignored and should be controlled.

\* \* \*

The exhaustive debate which accompanied the drafting of the Parliamentary Report, centered on the possibility of suggesting that a special law be passed which gave full recognition to the Factory Coun-



cil and governed and guaranteed its functioning. Requests to this end were made during the debate and the Report includes them among all the other documents it contains.

However, it is not correct to talk about juridical recognition of the Factory Council, for norms already exist which contemplate their institution and operation. The fact that these are contractual laws does not mean that they lose any of their juridical status. They are limited by the fact that since Article 39 of the Constitution (1) has not been applied, their authority is limited to those who are covered by the recognized labour unions.

However, in view of the many motives offered during the final discussions, to support the idea of a special law and to maintain the opportunity of confining the question to free bargaining with the labour unions, the Parliamentary Commission summed up as follows:

a) a special law which governs the functions of the Factory Council is called for in view of union weakness. It has been suggested that the labour unions can only become stronger if new principles are adopted, particularly as regards a full definition of the powers of labour representation in the factory;

b) a special law governing the Factory Council calls for support, because it will give the Council greater stability, greater independence, wider guarantees in functioning and protection of its members, and also considering it as an initial application of the clauses contained in Article 46 of the Constitution;

c) arguments which contrast the opportunity of such a law are based on the principle of the autonomy and freedom of the labour unions, since the Factory Council has been created through the initiative of the unions and, therefore, there is no need for any special legislation. There are also claims that attempts in this direction would eventually compromise the expansion of labour union activity and would not solve any of the problems raised by those who support the idea of juridical recognition;

d) there is great need of adapting the rules on the Factory Council to the law which will enforce Article 39 of the Constitution. Application of Article 39 would, « ergo omnes », enforce all labour union

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(1) *Constitution of the Italian Republic - Article 39:*

The freedom of the organization of trades unions is affirmed.

No compulsion may be imposed on trades unions except that of registering at the local or central offices according to the provisions of the law.

A condition of registration is that the statutes of the unions sanction an internal organization on a democratic basis.

Registered trades unions have a legal personality. They may, being represented in proportion to the number of their registered members, negotiate collective labour contracts having compulsory value for all persons belonging to the categories to which the contracts refer.

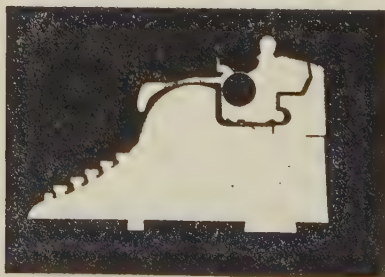
agreements, including those which created the Factory Council and it would be almost impossible to introduce any legislation governing an organ which represents labour in the factory while neglecting trade union representation proper;

e) suggestions have been made to limit legislation to the setting up of Arbitration and Control Boards to settle controversies arising over election problems. Such a solution met the approval of the Parliamentary Commission, independent of whether such legislation limits or extends the authority of the Factory Council.

The Parliamentary Commission decided that, since it had no authority or responsibility in matters of legislation, it should only avail itself of the faculties granted it by Parliament in the event of a general agreement being reached on definite proposals.

Such was not the case over the question under discussion and, although observing that there was a general tendency towards approving some form of legislation, a number of members of the Commission maintained their opposition. There were others who called for particular legislation covering both the Factory Councils and the trades unions.

The Commission was of the opinion that it had completed its task by furnishing Parliament with a complete picture of the situation, including relative opinions and the reasons which had been given.



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CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF FEBRUARY 26, 1948, No. 4

# **SPECIAL STATUTE FOR THE VALLE D'AOSTA**

## **THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**

In view of the first paragraph of Article XVII of the Transitory Provisions, and of Article 116 of the Constitution,

### **Proclaims**

the following constitutional law, approved by the Constituent Assembly on January 31, 1948:

### **TITLE I**

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE REGION**

### **Article 1**

The Valle d'Aosta is created an Autonomous Region, with juridical status, within the political unity of the Italian Republic, one and indivisible, on the basis of the principles of the Constitution and in accordance with the present Statute.

The city of Aosta is the capital of the Region.

### **TITLE II**

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE REGION**

### **Article 2**

In accordance with the Constitution and the juridical authority of the State and considering international obligations and national interests, without prejudice to the basic laws of social and economical reform practised within the Republic, the Region shall have legislative power in the following matters:

- a) Administration of the offices and organizations depending on the Regional Authorities and the juridical and economic status of the persons employed therein;
- b) Communal boundaries;
- c) Urban and Rural police;
- d) Agriculture, forests, zootechnics, flora and fauna;
- e) Minor land reclamation and agricultural development;
- f) Roads and public works of regional interest;
- g) Urban planning and development of tourist centres;
- h) Local motor transport services and cable railways;
- i) Mineral and spa waters;
- l) Hunting and fishing;
- m) Public water supply used for irrigation and domestic purposes;
- n) Encouragement of local productive activities;
- o) Civic duties, agricultural cooperative organizations, joint agricultural and forest land, organization of agricultural smallholdings;
- p) Artisan activities;
- q) Hotel industry, tourism and protection of landscape;
- r) Technical and vocational training;
- s) Libraries and museums belonging to local bodies;
- i) Fairs and markets;
- u) Organization of guide and ski schools and mountain carriers;
- v) Toponomy;
- z) Fire services.

**Article 3**

The Regional Authorities shall have the power to issue legislation which is complementary to, and an enforcement of, the laws of the Republic which require adaptation to local requirements, but always within the limits set out in the preceding article. Such legislation shall concern the following:

- a) Industry and Trade;
- b) Foundation of local credit institutes;
- c) Expropriation, for public benefit, of non-State organizations;
- d) Regulation of water supplies used for public consumption and hydro-electric power;
- e) Organization of the mining industries;
- f) Regional and Communal finance;
- g) Preparatory, elementary and secondary education;
- h) Social services and insurance;
- i) Public assistance and charities;
- l) Public health and hygiene, hospital and prophylactic assistance;
- m) Upkeep of historical monuments and works of art;
- n) Food office;
- o) Management of Public Services.

**Article 4**

The Regional Authorities shall exercise administrative authority on all matters over which they have jurisdiction, as under articles 2 and 3, with the exception of those attributed to the Communes and other local bodies by the laws of the Republic.

The Regional Authorities shall also exercise those powers delegated by the laws of the State.

### TITLE III STATE PROPERTY AND FINANCE

**Article 5**

State property existing within the boundaries of the Region, with the exception of property which is of interest to State defence or services of a national character, is assigned to the Region.

The Regional Authorities shall also assume responsibility for public water supplies used for irrigation and drinking purposes.

**Article 6**

Fixed property belonging to the State but within the boundaries of the Region, shall be transferred to the Region.

Such property, which cannot be disposed of to third parties, shall include the following:

- forests which are the property of the State by virtue of current laws;
- mines, when these are not the responsibility of the landowner;
- buildings employed as public offices for the Region and other property used for public services within the Region.

**Article 7**

Public water supplies existing within the Region, with the exception of those listed under Article 5, shall be ceded, gratuitously, to the Region, for a period of ninety-nine years by the State. The concession may be renewed.

No concession shall be made in the case of those water supplies which, at September 7, 1945, were already claimed or ceded.

At the end of the authorized period, such use or concession will be transferred to the Region.



Concession of public water supplies to the Region shall be subordinate to the State's requirements and programmes affecting national interests.

### Article 8

Water concessions, as per paragraph 2 of the preceding Article, and which were not claimed at September 7, 1945, shall pass to the Region.

The President of the Regional Junta shall be authorized to call for a declaration of termination of such concessions, when the law so requires.

Concessions contemplated in this present Article may not be ceded. Water supplies ceded to the Region may be handed over to third parties, provided that the use of such water supplies is limited to State territory and in accordance with a general plan drawn up by a special committee composed of representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and the Regional Junta.

Concessions to third parties shall be made according to the procedure and technical regulations adopted by the State.

### Article 9

The concession of water supplies to third parties for hydro-electric purposes must take place within limits established by the Central Government which shall duly consider the opinion of the Regional Junta.

Water supplies for public consumption and irrigation purposes shall not be subject to Regional tax.

### Article 10

Should the official period for the enforcement of the regulations contained in the laws on public water supplies and electric installations for the Communes and their public services have already terminated, it shall be extended as from September 7, 1945.

### Article 11

The mines existing in the Region shall be freely ceded to the Region for a period of ninety-nine years. The concession may be renewed.

The said mines may not be ceded to third parties.

Those mines which were ceded before September 7, 1945, shall not be included, unless the terms foreseen by the law have not been observed. In such case, the Regional Authorities may terminate the concession in their own favour.

Concessions to third parties shall be practised according to the technical regulations adopted by the State.

### Article 12

The Region shall impose taxes to meet its financial needs but the State, after proposals from the Council of the Valle d'Aosta, shall contribute a certain quota from the national Exchequer.

The Valle d'Aosta shall impose its own taxes and duties in accordance with the requirements of the tax regulations in force.

The State shall make special contributions for such undertakings as are not part of the normal functions of the Region.

The State shall also cede nine-tenths of the annual payments made in respect of concessions relative to hydro-electric power in the Valle d'Aosta.

### Article 13

For the purpose of imposing the proper taxes and duties, the State Finance Offices in the Region shall supply the Regional Junta with a list of the contributors resident in the Valle.

The Junta shall examine this list and shall rectify and complete it. The Junta shall also add the names of those persons who have been omitted and cancel the names of those persons who, for any motive, have been included erroneously.

The Junta shall supply complete evidence for all changes it shall make to the said list.

The Junta shall also supply all evidence which shall eventually enable complete information to be obtained on the fiscal responsibilities of contributors living in the Region.

The State finance offices within the Region shall inform the Junta of all actions taken on the basis of information supplied.

#### TITLE IV FREE ZONE

##### Article 14

The territory of the Valle d'Aosta shall be considered outside the customs boundaries and shall be considered a free zone.

The creation of this free zone shall be agreed upon with the Regional Authorities and legalized by State law.

#### TITLE V THE REGIONAL ORGANS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

##### Article 15

The following shall be the official organs of the Region: the Council of the Valle d'Aosta, the Regional Junta and its President.

##### Article 16

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall be composed of thirty-five councillors, elected by direct, universal and secret suffrage, in accordance with the laws promulgated by the State after the proposals advanced by the Region have been considered.

Residence in the Valle d'Aosta for a period of not less than one year may be established as essential to eligibility to vote. Those persons who have been born in the Region or who have been residents for a period which is not less than three years, may be elected to the Council.

##### Article 17

The office of Regional Councillor is incompatible with membership of the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies or another Regional Council.

The laws of the State shall be applied in all cases of ineligibility or non-compatibility.

##### Article 18

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall be elected for a period of four years.

The elections shall be decided by the President of the Regional Junta within fifteen days of the completion of office of the existing Council and shall take place not later than the sixtieth day.

##### Article 19

The Regional Council shall elect, from among its members, a President, the President's Office and the Committees, in conformity with the regulations in force. Election shall be by absolute majority.

##### Article 20

The Council shall be convoked by its President in ordinary session during the first week of April and October of each year and in extraordinary session on the request of President of the Regional Junta or at least one third of the Councillors.



### Article 21

The decisions taken by the Regional Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall not be considered valid unless a majority of members shall be present. Such decisions shall only be valid when obtaining a majority vote or when a pre-established majority is agreed upon.

### Article 22

All sessions of the Regional Council of the Valle d'Aosta are public. The Council shall have the right, however, to hold non-public meetings.

### Article 23

The Regional Councillors, before being admitted to office, shall take an oath to be faithful to the Republic and to perform their functions with the single aim of promoting the well-being of both the State and the Region of the Valle d'Aosta.

### Article 24

The Regional Councillors shall not be charged for opinions expressed, or votes cast, during the exercise of their functions.

### Article 25

The Regional Councillors shall receive an indemnity in accordance with the laws of the Region.

### Article 26

The Regional Council shall exercise such functions as are the normal competence of the Region and those which are attributed to it by virtue of the present Statute or the laws of the State.

### Article 27

Regional laws are promoted by the Regional Junta, members of the Regional Council and the people of the Valle d'Aosta.

### Article 28

The population of the Valle d'Aosta may request the introduction of a new law through the presentation of a Bill approved by a minimum of three thousand qualified electors.

### Article 29

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall each year approve the Budget and final balance sheets presented by the Junta.

The financial year within the Region shall be the same as that of the Italian Republic.

### Article 30

A Bill approved by the Regional Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall be subject to public referendum on the decision of the Junta, when request to do so has been forwarded by a third of the Councillors or when such action is desired by at least four thousand qualified electors.

No referendum shall be permitted for tax laws or approval of budgets.

The public referendum, its method of employment and application shall be established under the regional laws.

### Article 31

Each law approved by the Regional Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall be communicated to a representative of the Ministry of the Interior, the Chairman of the Committee of Coordination, as per Article 45, who shall approve it within thirty days of receiving communication, unless he shall oppose such a law.

The law shall be promulgated within ten days of receiving such approval and shall come into force fifteen days after its publication in the "Official Bulletin" of the Region, unless the law itself shall establish other terms.

If the Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall declare a law to be urgent through an absolute majority of its components and the representative of the Ministry of the Interior shall so consent, promulgation and application shall not be subordinate to the terms set out above.

The representative of the Ministry of the Interior, when he so considers that a law approved by the Council of the Valle d'Aosta exceeds the competence of the Region or is in contrast with national interests or with those of other Regions, shall return the said law to the Council within the period established for his consent.

Should the Regional Council approve the law once again through an absolute majority, the Central Government of the Republic may, within fifteen days of receiving notice, bring the question of legitimacy before the Constitutional Court or, in the case of contrasting interests, before the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

In the event of any doubt, the Court shall decide on the body which is competent to adjudicate.

### Article 32

The President of the Regional Junta, the Junta and its members are vested with executive power within the Region.

### Article 33

The President of the Regional Junta shall be elected by the Council from among its members, immediately after the nomination of the President of the Regional Council and members of his Office.

Election shall be secret and by absolute majority and, after the second count, by relative majority.

Members of the Regional Junta appointed to specific functions within the Administration shall be nominated by the Council on the proposal of the President of the Junta.

### Article 34

The President of the Junta shall be head of the Regional Administration and shall represent the Region.

He is responsible for promulgating laws and Regional legislation.

### Article 35

The function of President of the Regional Junta or member of the Junta is incompatible with any other public office.

### Article 36

In case of necessity and urgent need, the Regional Junta may take decisions which are normally the competence of the Council.



All provisions adopted by the Junta must be placed before the Council at its first successive meeting for ratification. They shall cease to have any effect from the date the Council shall refuse to approve them.

### Article 37

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta has the right to appoint technical experts.

## TITLE VI

### LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION

#### Article 38

The French language is considered equal to the Italian language in the Valle d'Aosta.

All public declarations may be made in either language, with the exception of statements by the judicial authorities which must be drafted in Italian.

State departments within the Region shall employ, whenever possible, persons born within the Region or who know the French language.

#### Article 39

All schools of all kinds, depending on the Region, shall practise a curriculum which includes instruction in the French and Italian languages for an equal number of hours weekly.

The French language may be used in the teaching of certain subjects.

#### Article 40

Teaching of all subjects shall conform to the requirements and programmes practised throughout the national territory. Adaptation to local needs shall be permitted.

Such modifications, as also subjects which may be taught in the French language, shall be approved and put into execution after approval by joint committees composed of representatives of the Ministry for Public Instruction, the Regional Council of the Valle d'Aosta and the teaching associations.

## TITLE VII

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

#### Article 41

The creation of local offices for Justices of the Peace within the Communes of the Valle d'Aosta is authorized by a decree promulgated by the President of the Junta, after due deliberation.

The President of the Junta, in virtue of the authority vested in him as representative of the President of the Republic and in conformity with the relative laws established by the Legal Authorities, shall be responsible for the appointment, termination of office, revocation and removal from office of Justices of the Peace and their Assistants. He shall also authorize the duties of the Chancellors and messengers employed in the offices of the Justices of the Peace, assuming only those persons who possess the qualifications required by the regulations issued by the Legal Authorities. The President of the Junta shall be responsible for revocation and temporary suspension whenever such action is so required.

## TITLE VIII LOCAL DEPARTMENTS

### Article 42

The Region, with the approval of the interested population, may introduce legislation which creates new Communes and the modification of boundaries and names.

### Article 43

The Region shall exercise control over all acts issued by the Communes, public charity institutes, cooperatives and local organizations according to the methods and limits established by Regional law which shall be in keeping with the principles of the laws of the State.

The faculty of dissolving Communal Councils and other local organs shall be reserved to the Regional Junta, after the opinion of the Council of the Valle d'Aosta has been heard and after the norms established by the laws of the State shall have been observed.

## TITLE IX RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE REGION

### Article 44

The President of the Regional Junta, who holds the delegated power of the Central Government, shall be responsible for the observance of public order, according to the dispositions of the Government, to whom he is responsible, through the employment of the State and local police. In exceptional cases, and when the security of the State so requires, the Government shall assume direct control and maintain public order.

The President of the Regional Junta shall be responsible for the administrative functions delegated to the Region by the State and shall conform to the instructions laid down by the Central Government to which he is responsible.

The President of the Regional Junta shall be present at Cabinet meetings whenever particular questions regarding the Region are being discussed.

### Article 45

A Committee of Coordination, composed of a representative of the Ministry of the Interior, who shall act as Chairman, a representative of the Ministry of Finance and a representative of the Region, appointed by the Council of the Valle d'Aosta from among persons extraneous to the Council, shall be set up in the capital of the Region.

The Committee shall be constituted by a Cabinet decree.

All expenses incurred by the Committee in the course of its functioning, shall be equally divided between the State and the Region.

### Article 46

The Committee of Coordination foreseen under the previous Article, shall control the legitimacy of all the administrative acts of the Region, according to the methods and within the limits established by the laws of the State.

In certain cases, established by law, the Committee, upon reasonable request, may demand the re-examination of any act by the competent organ of the Region.

### Article 47

For the purposes of General Elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, the Region of the Valle d'Aosta shall be considered an electoral district.



### Article 48

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta may be dissolved when it commits acts which are contrary to the Constitution or to the Regional Statute or which violate the law, or when, regardless of instructions given by the Government of the Republic, it fails to substitute the Regional Junta or the President when these are guilty of performing acts contrary to the Constitution or in violation of the law.

The Council may also be dissolved for reasons of national security or when, through resignations or other causes, it no longer functions as required.

The dissolving of the Council shall be authorized by a decree issued by the President of the Republic after a Cabinet decision and after the Standing Committee for Regional Affairs has given its opinion.

When such a decree is issued, a special Committee shall be formed composed of three citizens eligible to the Council of the Valle d'Aosta which will be held responsible for the ordinary administration normally the competence of the Junta and such acts as may not be delayed. All decisions shall be brought before the new Council for ratification. The Committee shall authorize the elections which must take place within three months from the date the Council was dissolved.

The new Regional Council shall be convoked by the Committee within twenty days of its election.

### TITLE X

### TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 49

The first election of the Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall take place, in conformity with Article 16 of the present Statute, according to the norms which shall be established through a legislative decree, after the opinion of the Council of the Valle has been heard.

The elections shall be authorized through a Presidential decree within ten months of the date of the application of the present law.

#### Article 50

Any modifications to this present Statute may only be made after the procedure laid down in the Constitution has been applied.

The Council of the Valle d'Aosta shall have the right to request modifications. Within two years from the date of the election of the Council of the Valle d'Aosta, according to the laws of the State and in agreement with the Regional Junta, a financial administration shall be established after due modifications to Article 12 and 13.

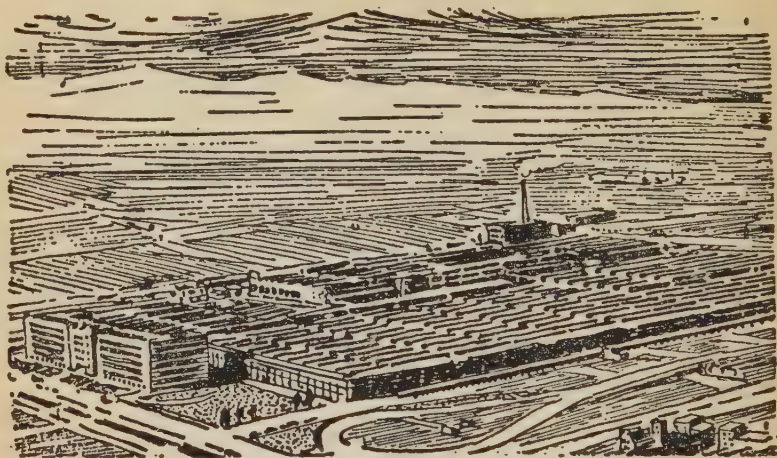
The norms relating to matters contained in Article 123 of the Constitution of the Republic may be modified by means of the procedure outlined in the said article.

#### Article 51

The laws of the State shall be applied to matters which are the responsibility of the Region, until such time as Regional laws shall dispose otherwise.

#### Article 52

The present Constitutional law shall come into force on the day following its publication in the « Official Gazette » of the Republic of Italy.



**FIAT**, which started in 1899 as the "Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino" has become one of the largest European industrial groups for motor production, "on land, at sea, in the air".

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**Area:** 6,000 acres.

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**A commercial and service organization** extending all over the world.

## THE ITALIAN RED CROSS

### Objectives, Functions and Results

The « Italian Red Cross » a public body enjoying international privileges, is concerned with giving medical and social assistance in war-and peace-time. The organization itself is of recent origin. Through the passage of centuries, innumerable religious and lay orders, inspired by the principle that wounded enemies should not be subjected to further violence, toiled and laboured to lessen the sufferings of others. But it was only towards the end of the last century that these principles began to spread on a much wider scale. A surgeon in the Neapolitan army of the Bourbons, Ferdinando Palasciano, was inspired by them and started a campaign which aimed at bringing about their acceptance by the nations of the world. Several international conferences, held in Geneva, resulted in such principles being incorporated in the *Convention of August 22, 1864*, which legally declared the neutrality of the sick and war wounded. It also recognized the foundation of voluntary groups to tend for the wounded on the actual field of battle under an emblem, which later became sacred to all the peoples of the world: a red cross on a white background.

The Medical Association of Milan was responsible for raising the first Italian Committee for aid to the sick and wounded. This committee, in 1866, took part in the third war of independence with its own special units, but later agreed to join the Central Committee which was created in Rome after the events which led to Italian unity.

Formed in 1884, operating under the tutelage of numerous laws which relate to its administration, the present Italian Red Cross has a Central Committee in Rome and 91 Provincial committees, some of which also function as mobilization centres. There are also 310 Sub-committees and 5,000 Communal delegations. The organization is called upon to perform the following national duties: preparation of mobile units (hospitals, infirmaries, first-aid posts, hospital trains and hospital ships, etc.) for emergency cases; staffing of permanent and non-permanent first-aid posts; transport services for the sick and injured; technical and professional training of auxiliary nursing staff; blood transfusion services; giving instruction in elementary hygiene and first-aid (mostly in the schools where a Junior Red Cross Organization has been founded); foundation and administration of permanent assistance centres (national campaign against tuberculosis); care of children (in collaboration with special Child Welfare organizations responsible for health services, holiday camps, school health programmes, etc.); professional aid during national disasters and distribution of food and clothing and other essential comforts.



The *Emergency and First-Aid Services*, which draw supplies from 9 primary and 12 secondary centres, are responsible for the functioning of 87 mobile units composed of 8 hospital trains, 18 field hospitals, 32 field ambulances, 700 motor ambulances, 77 private cars, 83 lorries, 7 trailers, 17 vans, 9 motor-scooters, 3 coaches, 30 assorted vehicles and 2 mobile road units comprising: 3 specially equipped lorries, one of which complete with X-ray, 2 special trailers with 18 beds and 1 disinfestation and fumigation trailer. There are also two emergency aid posts in each large and medium sized Commune.

The Italian Red Cross is represented by 20 *delegations throughout the world* and is only called upon to render service in other countries in cases of dire emergency. Even then, it operates in common with similar organizations existing in the various nations. Acting in favour of this task of bringing aid to all peoples, the General Assembly of the United Nations, during its session of November 14, 1948, voted a special resolution which pledged all governments to favour the activity of the Red Cross in every way feasible, to respect its independent and voluntary character and to adopt all those measures which would enable the organization to fulfill its task as fully as possible.

*In the event of war*, the Italian Red Cross is called upon to contribute personnel and equipment for the evacuation and care of the sick and wounded, to assist in necessary hygiene precautions and cooperate with the air raid defence organizations, give aid to prisoners of war, participate in the search for missing persons, facilitate exchanges of correspondence and parcels and give assistance to interned civilian and military personnel.

The association enrolls its own personnel for *emergency services in war- and peace-time* who are incorporated in the Volunteer Military Corps of the Italian Red Cross, an auxiliary to the regular Armed Forces, and the Corps of Volunteer Nurses.

During the immediate post-war period, the Italian Red Cross, in spite of its privileges as a neutral body, suffered many restrictions and it was only in June 1944 that the Rome Committee was able to resume its normal functions. After a tremendous effort, the association was completely re-organized and returned to normal peace-time duties. It was the subject of a special law signed by the provisional President of the Italian Republic on November 13, 1947, no. 1256.

At the present time, the Italian Red Cross is concentrating on strengthening its functions as an organization of assistance. Blood transfusion centres are common, emergency aid posts exist along the rail and road networks, special night services for visits to private homes operate smoothly, there is an excellent ambulance service, and

training courses in nursing and first aid are flourishing. Special classes in hygiene and general medical education are given to members of the Junior Red Cross, and a great deal had been done to look after spastic cases, introduce a widespread use of prophylactics and create new hospitals. The new Convention of August 12, 1949, signed in Geneva, gave new responsibilities and tasks to the Italian Red Cross both at home and abroad. To better understand the complex activity and the manifold tasks of this organization, reference to some of the more important undertakings is set out hereafter.

### Blood Transfusion Service

The past ten years have witnessed a great development in the idea of blood transfusion as a therapeutic treatment. At first, only practiced in but few cases and then generally limited to emergencies, particularly where large loss of blood was involved, blood transfusion is now used as a normal cure in medical therapy, surgery and often in cases of infection. In fact, blood transfusion now has the same importance as the use of sulphanilamides, penicillin and streptomycin. More often than not it is indispensable to the lives of thousands of persons or to relieve suffering produced by various forms of illness.

The rapid evolution which has taken place in this form of treatment is mostly due to experience gained during the second World War. It was responsible for saving the lives of thousands of troops and civilians, on the battlefields, in the cities, at sea and even in the air.

At the end of hostilities, large quantities of blood which had been offered in several countries for the troops were made available for civilian use. But, since human blood cannot be preserved beyond a certain period of time, an attempt had to be made to avoid the loss of such precious material. This led to those transformation processes which are now commonly used in all countries in which blood transfusion is practised and favoured.

The blood is transformed in specially equipped laboratories and there are several products resulting from the process: dry plasma, fibrin and its derivatives, globulin, serum, albumin, etc. which make it possible to treat numerous illnesses.

The Italian Red Cross has set up blood centres at Padua, Genoa, Imperia, Florence, Aquila, Reggio Calabria, Feltre and Colleferro. These centres are connected one with another, but they operate throughout the whole of Italy by means of mobile units. Other centres are to be organized while a large, modern institute, «The National Blood Transfusion Centre» has been built in Rome, flanking the other five hospital centres already in existence.

### Assistance to spastics

Activity of the Italian Red Cross also includes social and medical aid to children afflicted with infirmities resulting from lesions to the nervous system (spastics, etc.) which either occurred during the pre-natal period or almost immediately after birth.

Work in this direction has been considerably influenced in the past by mistrust of therapeutic treatment so that results were more or less nil. Research and experiments of the past years, however, have shown that, through specialized treatment, these children can reach a stage of surprising individual independence, and many of them can be rehabilitated almost completely.

The problem of giving assistance to such cases, which offer multiple and complicated medico-social aspects, has often been brought to the attention of public opinion and, more recently, to the attention of the government. Public responsibility towards such child sufferers was defined in the Law of April 10, 1954, which sets out State action in the care and treatment of them. The Italian Red Cross has undertaken the training of special medical staff and has drafted an assistance programme through which the requirements of the law will gradually be applied to the whole of Italy. The Provincial Committees of the Red Cross will offer the necessary technical, administrative and moral guarantees of the seriousness of the undertaking, through the foundation of special centres in places where they are most needed and which offer the most favourable conditions for operating. Such centres have already started functioning in Rome, Bergamo and Florence, while others are being prepared in southern and insular Italy. The network thus formed will be efficiently and rationally distributed. A model «Centre of Motor Education» has already been opened in Rome, and since 1956 this has been responsible for the rehabilitation of child sufferers through the expert collaboration of psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, etc.

### SANATORIUMS, HOSPITALS AND CONVALESCENT HOMES

The Italian Red Cross possesses several sanatoriums and hospitals, chief among them being:

#### Sanatoriums and Institutes for Tuberculosis:

*Istituto Climatico di Cuasso al Monte* (Varese), for tuberculosis of the lung. Capacity: 350 beds for male sufferers over 15 years of age.

*Istituto Climatico «Eremo di Lanzo»* of Lanzo Torinese (Turin), for treatment of curable tuberculosis of the lung. Capacity: 100 beds for female sufferers, from 8 to 50 years of age.



*Ospedale Chirurgico Ortopedico di Malcesine sul Garda* (Verona), for treatment of polio and bone complaints, children and adults. Capacity: about 200 beds.

*Sanatorio infantile « I Fraticini »* (Florence), for the treatment of tuberculosis of the lung. Capacity: 180 beds for children of both sexes from birth to 12 years of age.

### General Hospitals:

*Ospedale No. 1 « Villa Sofia »* (Palermo). Capacity: 80 beds for both sexes. Functions as a general hospital.

### Isolation hospitals:

*Preventorio di Fara Sabina* (Rieti), for treatment of children suffering from initial forms of tuberculosis of the lung. Capacity: 300 beds for children of both sexes between 4 and 12.

*Preventorio di Pozzuoli* (Naples), for treatment of children suffering from initial forms of tuberculosis. Capacity: 200 beds for children of both sexes between 4 and 12 years.

*Preventorio « E. Maraini »* (Rome), for new-born children of mothers affected by tuberculosis. Transferred to the Villa Cesare Battisti in Rome and merged with the Preventorio of Velletri. Capacity: 250 beds for children up to 6 years.

*Preventorio di Arcidosso* (Grosseto), Monte Amiata. Capacity: 300 children of both sexes between 4 and 12 years.

### General Observation Hospitals and Permanent Sanatoriums:

*Preventorio di Enego* (Vicenza), for children predisposed to tuberculosis or exposed to infection. Capacity: 500 beds for children of both sexes.

*Preventorio di Salò* (Brescia), ditto. Capacity: 115 beds for minors of both sexes between 6 and 12.

*Preventorio di Mergozzo* (Novara), ditto. Capacity: 100 beds for girls between 4 and 12.

*Preventorio di S. Cristina di Prato* (Florence), ditto. Capacity: 35 beds for boys between 3 and 12.

*Preventorio « Leone Gasparri » of Populonia* (Leghorn), ditto. Capacity: 100 beds for children of both sexes between 5 and 11.

*Preventorio di Igea Marina di Bellaria di Rimini* (Forlì), ditto. Capacity: 200 beds for children of both sexes between 4 and 12. Capacity will be increased to 300 beds shortly.

*Istituto Climatico di Falconara* (Ancona), ditto. Capacity: 90 beds for children of both sexes between 4 and 12.

*Preventorio di Velletri* (Rome), ditto. Transferred to Villa Cesare Battisti of Rome. Merged with *Preventorio Maraini*.

*Colonia Permanente Marina di Sottomarina di Chioggia* (Padua), for delicate, undernourished or needy children. Capacity: 300 beds for children of both sexes between 5 and 12 years.

*Colonia Permanente Croce Rossa Italiana di Catona* (Reggio Calabria), cares for about 150 children suffering from tuberculosis.

*Istituto Climatico di Camerino* (Ancona), for children predisposed to tuberculosis or exposed to infection. Capacity: 100 beds for children of both sexes between 4 and 12 years.

*Istituto Montano pro infanzia di S. Leonardo in Santulussurgiu* (Cagliari), ditto. Capacity 150 beds for children of both sexes between 3 and 6.

*Colonia Permanente Croce Rossa Italiana di Levico* (Trento), now being organized. Capacity: 100 beds for children between 6 and 12.

*Preventorio alla Colonia Marina* (Tripoli), various departments, hot sulphur baths.

#### Seasonal centres and open-air schools:

*Colonia Marina « Pietro Biffis » di Iesolo* (Treviso), houses 450 children of both sexes during the summer season. Ages: 6 to 12 years.

*Colonia Marina di Apuania* (Massa), assistance to under-nourished, needy and delicate children or those predisposed to tuberculosis, during summer season.

*Open-air school at Gaggiola* (La Spezia), for 120 children of both sexes, needy, undernourished, delicate or predisposed to tuberculosis. First three elementary school teaching grades are made available.

During 1957, the Central Committee and provincial committees of the Italian Red Cross looked after 9,500 children in its summer camps.

Finally, the *Foster-Mothers' Union for Needy Children* cared for 1,000 needy children, spending over 100 million lire on medical examinations, ray treatment, hospitalization, special medical treatment, holiday camps, etc.

The Italian Red Cross has paid particular attention to nurses' training courses, particularly since social medical services have been reformed and re-organized. The Law of August 15, 1925, No. 1832, modified by the Law of March 18, 1926, No. 562, concerns the training and professional duties of the nurses, and institutes the award of a State diploma to those who are qualified.

Legislation is based on the principle that nursing is primarily a woman's task, must be considered as a profession, and therefore lays down very strict training. It also requires that the would-be nurse complete a period of intern-ship, normally about two years, during which she will be subjected to special rules and discipline. Practical and theoretical training takes place in accordance with a programme laid down by the authorities and terminates in a State examination. The successful candidate may then obtain permission to practise as a qualified nurse.

The first Italian Red Cross Training School was founded in Milan in 1916. Today, it is a modern centre with full hospital equipment and is one of the foremost in Italy. Prior to the outbreak of the second World War various other training schools were set up, among them being: the *Scuola Convitto* of Rome (1924), annexed to the university clinics, the Naples school (1927), Bologna (1929) and Turin (1936). Recently, schools have been opened at Parma (1950) and Chieti (1955). They are all recognized by the State, can normally house about 350 trainee nurses, and issue 150 diplomas and 20 administrative and specialist awards each year. Current schools operated by the Red Cross are as follows: « *Principessa di Piemonte* » Training School for Nurses, Viale Ercolani 6, Bologna; « *Elena d'Aosta* » Training School for Nurses, Cappella dei Cangiani, Naples; Training School for Nurses, via Giorgio Baglivi 16, Rome; « *Edoardo Agnelli* » Training School for Nurses, Turin (temporary premises: S. Camillio Hospital, Monteverde Nuovo, Rome); Training School for Nurses, c/o Ospedale Civile, Strada di Quartiere, 4, Parma; Training School for Nurses and Health Visitors, via Sassi 4, Milan; Nurses Training School, c/o Ospedale C.R.I. di Colleferro (annexed to Rome School); Training School for Nurses, c/o Ospedale Civile di Chieti; « *Principessa Iolanda* » Training School, via Sassi 4, Milan; General Hospital with annexed quarters for trainee nurses and health visitors, 150 beds for both sexes; « *Leopoldo Parodi Delfino* » Hospital Training Institute, Colleferro (Rome). General Hospital with annexed quarters for Nurses. Capacity: 250 beds. A new training school was recently opened at the Civic hospital of Mantua.

Specialized School for Health Visitors are open to those trained nurses in possession of a diploma and who show particular aptitude for health and social welfare. Teaching programmes, as for the Nurses Training Schools, are laid down by the government and the course normally lasts one year. Theory is flanked by practical experience which the students obtain by working at social service centres, the public health offices in local towns, post- and pre-natal clinics, schools, factories and mobile units. The task of the health visitors is essen-



tially prophylactic and training centres round those scientific problems and technical questions relating to social hygiene.

The health visitor also assumes important functions as a teacher of social hygiene through frequent contacts with the public (schools, industry, etc.) and individual relations with private persons visited in their own homes. Special training schools for health visitors, organized by the Italian Red Cross, now number 11 and were founded respectively in the following cities: Rome, Florence, Milan, Bologna, Turin, Naples, Trieste, Genoa, Bolzano, Trapani, and Cremona. They are attended by about 200 students. More than 4,000 certificates have been issued up to today.

Among the personnel belonging to the Italian Red Cross, an important role is played by **voluntary nurses**, who number 14,465. They serve in hospitals, emergency-aid posts, surgeries, blood transfusion centres, military hospitals, etc. During the years 1908 to 1956, 21,426 diplomas were issued to voluntary nurses; in the last war 4,632 were engaged on active service, 20 were killed, 200 were decorated for gallantry, while a further 600 received awards for meritorious conduct.

\* \* \*

According to the clauses of its Statute, the Italian Red Cross uses — for duties in war- and peace-time — a military corps composed of voluntary elements. The contribution to the aims of the organization by the Military Corps of the Italian Red Cross (during the second World War, the « war of liberation » and the period of reconstruction) cost the following sacrifices: officers mobilized: 1,200; killed through reasons of service: 46; wounded, injured or sick through reasons of service: 142; prisoners-of-war: 43; executed at the Ardeatine Caves: 2; N.C.O's and men mobilized: 11,300; died through service: 219; wounded, injured or sick through service: 1,028; prisoners-of-war: 297.

This illustration of the activities of the Italian Red Cross would not be complete without a glance at the Junior organization. This is of a scholastic nature and pursues a policy of health and hygiene in the school. The Junior Red Cross today has about 700,000 individual members and it operates among 5.5 million students.

The parent association is responsible for 107 general school surgeries and 10 dental centres. In collaboration with the Department of Studies it has organized 21 Health and Hygiene courses.

The work of the Junior Italian Red Cross is greatly assisted by another association, known as the "Pioneers of Brotherhood" which consists of those persons most ideally suited to teach feelings of moral and social rectitude through example and practice.

## HOUSING AND PLANNING

### Rules and characteristics of urban planning

The Law of August 17, 1942, No. 1150 established the authority of the Ministry of Public Works in questions of urban planning, and nominated those departments responsible for putting such plans into effect (1). The same law also proposed the objectives for housing policy, the preservation of traditional characteristics in those cities in which urban planning was applied, decentralization and encouragement in planned use of land.

Article 1 of the Planning Act set out two preliminary objectives; protection of those sites which, because of their high artistic value, are the property of the whole nation, and the maintaining of a balance between increasing demographic pressure and available land. The latter was to be achieved through a rational building programme and regulated economic growth which took into account population distribution. This necessitated extensive planning and measures which contemplated areas far larger than those contained within the boundaries of single Communes and gave rise to nation-wide development projects as contemplated under Article 5 of the law.

While the Bill was passing through Parliament, an Urban Planning Department was set up to take over the duties and functions previously carried out by the Office of Building. At the same time, the Civil Engineering Department created a special group of architects and engineers specialized in urban planning and, when the Bill was eventually passed, definite plans for its application were already well advanced. The Senior Council for Public Works was recognized as the only body in the Ministry responsible for urban planning and special local offices were set up to coordinate operations within specific boundaries.

Central and local planning services today operate through three main offices: 1) The Urban Planning Department; 2) Senior Council of the Ministry of Public Works; 3) Branch Planning Offices.

The Urban Planning Department is mainly concerned with the promotion and co-ordination of all town planning. It deals with regional projects, authorizes inter-commune planning, inclusion of the Communes in those lists authorized by Article 8 of the Law on Urban Planning, coordination of the activities of local offices, etc. It also controls general Communal and inter-Commune planning, by approving general and specific projects which are advanced, and supervises slum-clearances and fresh building schemes. The Urban Planning Department also regulates building programmes initiated by the Communes, investigates individual housing schemes

(1) Information and figures have been taken from *Attività Urbanistica della Amministrazione dei LL. PP.* (Urban Planning by the Ministry of Public Works) - Report on the VI Congress on Town Planning (Turin, October 1956) - Ministry of Public Works - Urban Planning Department, Rome, Printed by Castaldi, 1956.

and may, at its own discretion, permit modifications to building regulations in force. Its supervision extends to private and company construction projects; it may cancel licences which have been granted contrary to existing regulations and take action over buildings which have been erected in defiance of such regulations. Apart from the above, the Urban Planning Department is also responsible for the drafting of rules and regulations governing building in general and may introduce such modifications to internal services as render them more efficient and in keeping with the growing importance of urban planning to the country. It issues explanations on existing legislation and provides for the examination of new Bills proposed by the Government. A special Technical Office is responsible for organizing and coordinating the activities of local departments and maintains correct relations between the various State departments and the interested organizations.

*The Senior Council of the Ministry of Public Works* is the supreme advisory organ in questions of town planning. This council is particularly concerned with the examination of plans and projects for urban construction schemes and their application. It also gives opinions on building legislation practised in the Communes and construction carried out by the Public Administration. The Senior Council also deals with questions arising from coordination of wide-scale planning over large areas and other matters of general interest. The opinion of the Senior Council of the Ministry of Public Works is binding and replaces those given by any other Government office or advisory body (with the exception of the Council of State which is concerned with the legitimacy of the opinions expressed). The Council itself is assisted by a Technical Service which is responsible for making technical enquiries into cases brought to the notice of the Council, and offers technical assistance to the Communes over questions of urban planning. This Service also carries out its own research, investigates new forms of urban development, considers special cases offered for its opinion and promotes organizational and legislative improvements.

*The Branch Planning Offices* were opened in 1948, on the proposal of Minister Salvatore Aldisio who called for their institution because the Law of 1942, on this question, had not been acted upon. In the interval, the organization of local offices of the Ministry had been considerably modified by the creation of Regional Surveyers' Offices attached to the Public Works Dept. These were given much greater power than the original Inspectors' Departments attached to the Civil Engineers, and one of their principal tasks was to simplify all measures of reconstruction by introducing some form of organization which could be largely decentralized.

### Slum Clearance and Model Villages

At the end of the most pressing phase of national reconstruction, new plans were introduced. One of the most important events was the clearing of the « Sassi » of Matera which, if looked upon from a general viewpoint, paved the way towards the solution of one of the most difficult social problems existing in the southern regions. For the first time, the work of slum clearance and resettlement was regarded as needing wide-scale action aimed at a sole objective and as a task which should include attempts at decentralization to take agricultural workers living in the city back to their original quarters. The clearing of one of the city's quarters was the starting point for the drafting of a general scheme which, after the successful completion of the initial phase, would form part of the national development scheme, modified only as local requirements demanded. Building development concentrated on extending urban boundaries and villages.



Apart from providing new homes for those displaced under the slum clearance scheme, such planning was the result of due attention being paid the needs of land reclamation and transformation programmes, this assuming an importance far beyond the possibilities of local Communes and bordering more ambitious projects for the economic development of Southern Italy.

To a certain extent, the urban planning, which was approved for Matera, served as an example for the whole of the South, although local conditions called for minor variations. Lay-out study, the boundaries and characteristics of the proposed new villages have since been entrusted to a committee which includes the Overseer for Public Works of Basilicata, representatives of UNRRA-CASAS, the Reform Agency for Apulia, Lucania and Molise, the Land Reform Cooperative of the Valle del Bradano and the Southern Italy Development Fund. The Ministry used the services of private architects and engineers in drafting general plans and the architectural lay-out of the buildings. When landslides endangered housing in Calabria, preference was given to schemes which foresaw the creation of entirely new quarters whether the transfer of the population threatened was partial or total. Such plans catered for the building of new homes equipped with all the necessary services in areas furnished with all social requirements. The State has also undertaken the building of aqueducts, drains, local roads, schools, etc. for those new centres which will be populated by persons evacuated from areas threatened or damaged by landslides and earthquakes.

*Slum clearance measures* also provide for the construction of new housing in rural villages, when possible.

When discussing planning coordination in urban development, mention must be made of the activity carried out by the *Building Development Fund* which was created in 1950 to encourage private enterprise through the formation of housing cooperatives and associations. But one of the most decisive answers to the problems of providing low price homes built by the State was given by four specialized agencies: INCIS, INA-Casa, UNRRA-CASAS and the Institute for Low-Price Housing.

These agencies were put in charge of building experimental residential quarters. The general principles may be summarized as follows: the idea of a « quarter » was to be substituted by that of a « home » equipped with all the necessary modern services; complete independence of such homes; State and private enterprise to work together; choice of suitable sites which would blend the new buildings with the surrounding landscape and retain green belts.

It was on such a basis that the three-year plans for fourteen provincial capitals have been drafted. Choice fell on those centres with the

most serious housing problems, resulting from population increase or condemned housing. They included: Ancona, Bari, Brindisi, Florence, Foggia, Messina, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome, Taranto, Turin, Trieste and Venice.

Research into *Regional Planned Development Schemes* has started throughout Italy and existing legislation has been adapted to the requirements of the democratic principles of the post-war Government. This means that the boundaries of different areas have been altered to coincide with those districts which are under the control of Regional Overseers and which, in turn, correspond to those set out in the Constitution of the Republic.

Regional planning is in the hands of three organs: a *Directive Committee*, composed of a restricted number of heads of Government departments invested with reasonable authority, responsible for the general lines to be followed; an *Advisory Committee*, on which the Communes are represented, which has the task of collecting reports from experts in matters relative to urban planning and the opinions of the local authorities; an *Executive Committee*, which collects and arranges all available material, including statistics and maps, and drafts the plan.

The actual composition of these organs is not rigid, for the Ministry dictates certain general lines, but leaves a sufficient margin of discretion to the Regional Overseers, on whom all planning ultimately depends, so that local conditions and requirements can be taken into consideration.

To ensure uniformity in State assistance, a special interministerial Committee supervises all action and takes responsibility for liaison between the « Vanoni Plan » and joint planning boards. To date, the general outlines of the regional planning for Lombardy have been completed, while similar schemes for Veneto and Campania are at an advanced stage.

*Local planning* has also made satisfactory progress. By the end of 1954, 32 Communes had adopted definite planning schemes and had sent them to the Ministry of Public Works. Fifteen of these were approved, while others were awaiting final revision. In order to make sure that the relative laws were applied, the Ministry, availing itself of the powers granted it under Article 8 of the Planning Act, requested that a list be compiled of those Communes obliged to adopt such schemes. Since this law is still in an experimental phase, this list was limited to 100, including all provincial capitals, with the exception of those existing in autonomous regions. In the case of the latter, Article 117 of the Constitution grants legislative power on questions of planning to the Local Government. Further specific legislation is also applied to « Health, Vacation and Tourist Resorts ».

Plans drafted for the 100 Communes included in the list are already at an advanced stage. A fresh stimulus has been supplied by the publication of a second list of those areas obliged to adopt urban planning schemes, including a further 210 inhabited centres. For the purpose of making a careful choice of these, the Urban Planning Department of the Senior Council of the Ministry of Public Works began a general enquiry as far back as 1954, and made a careful survey of those factors considered most useful to planners and which would determine the need for carefully drafted projects.

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING TRADE

The industry is represented by 31,063 companies employing 502,905 persons, with 39,821 branches

For the sake of simplicity, the trade is divided into four categories, as follows: building construction (excluding civil engineering); movement of soil and road construction (excavation of subways, mains, layout of public gardens); civil engineering (laying and maintenance of road and rail track for the State railways and tram services, construction of bridges, canals, drains, electric grid systems, telephone and telegraph networks, port and coastal installations, hydro-electric powerhouses); minor building activities (cement and brick work, carpentry, painting and decoration, plastering, paper-hanging, water-proofing, scaffolding, etc.).

According to the industrial census held in 1951, the building trade is composed of 31,063 companies, of which 24,139 are individually owned, 6,853 are limited companies and 71 corporations (of which 62 are owned or partially owned by the State).

Division per number of persons employed is as follows:

|                                    |                  |          |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2 employees: .....           | 12,307 companies | - 39.6 % |
| From 3 to 5 employees: .....       | 5,369 companies  | - 17.3 % |
| From 6 to 10 employees: .....      | 4,521 companies  | - 14.6 % |
| From 11 to 50 employees: .....     | 7,145 companies  | - 23.0 % |
| From 51 to 100 employees: .....    | 1,091 companies  | - 3.5 %  |
| From 101 to 500 employees: .....   | 585 companies    | - 1.9 %  |
| From 501 to 1,000 employees: ..... | 33 companies     | - 0.1 %  |
| Over 1,000 employees: .....        | 12 companies     |          |

Further examination of the activities of these companies shows that 27,896 operate within the Communes, 2,032 within the provinces, 543 in the regions and 592 throughout the whole territory.

Table I - LOCAL UNITS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED. MOTIVE FORCE

| CATEGORY                                 | North Italy |                  |              | Central Italy |                  |              | Southern and Insular Italy |                  |              |
|--|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|  | Local Units | Persons Employed | Motive Force | Local Units   | Persons Employed | Motive Force | Local Units                | Persons Employed | Motive Force |
| Building Construction .....              | 13,019      | 206,907          | 96,113       | 4,693         | 96,842           | 25,949       | 4,795                      | 61,233           | 17,051       |
| Soil Removal and Road Works .....        | 1,286       | 23,994           | 17,263       | 513           | 8,862            | 5,069        | 1,270                      | 22,873           | 4,896        |
| Civil Engineers .....                    | 696         | 25,807           | 76,260       | 255           | 6,670            | 9,735        | 328                        | 20,422           | 45,462       |
| Minor Building and related activities .. | 8,525       | 20,278           | 1,047        | 2,167         | 4,565            | 186          | 2,364                      | 4,452            | 55           |
| Total .....                              | 23,436      | 276,986          | 190,683      | 7,628         | 116,939          | 40,939       | 8,757                      | 108,980          | 67,464       |



The industry itself is divided into 39,821 local units (34,179 pursuing actual building activity and 5,642 acting as local administrative units) which employ 502,905 persons, divided into the following four main headings: building construction – 364,982 persons (absorbed by 22,507 local units); soil movement and road works – 55,729 (absorbed in 3,069 local units); civil engineering – 52,899 (absorbed by 1,189 local units); general building and related activity – 29,295 (absorbed by 13,056 local units).

Labour engaged in the building trade is specified as under: manager-owners – 50,727 (10.1 %); managers and administrative employees – 15,889 (3.2 %); manual labourers and tradesmen – 415,173 (82.5 %, of which 0.2 % represents persons holding technical diplomas, 8.4 % tradesmen, 21.4 % semi-skilled workers, 14.6 % skilled labourers, 37.9 % general labourers); custodians, etc. – 4,029 (0.8 %); apprentices – 17,087 (3.4 %). Female labour amounts to about 1.7 % of the total, labour below the age of 18 is equal to 3.5 %, and that from 18 to under 20 totals 3.4 % (Table II).

Table II – PERSONNEL OF BUILDING TRADE  
ACCORDING TO CATEGORY

| CATEGORY                                    | Building<br>Construction | Soil<br>Removal<br>and Road<br>Construction | Civil<br>Engineering | Minor<br>and related<br>Activities | Total   | %      |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Employer-managers .....                     | 28,179                   | 4,172                                       | 778                  | 17,598                             | 50,727  | 10.1   |
| Managers and Administrative employees ..... | 10,886                   | 1,714                                       | 3,250                | 39                                 | 15,889  | 3.2    |
| Tradesmen and Labourers .....               | 309,751                  | 48,213                                      | 46,872               | 10,337                             | 415,173 | 82.5   |
| – with technical qualifications .....       | 840                      | 123   | 217                  | 27                                 | 1,207   | 0.2    |
| – tradesmen .....                           | 33,452                   | 2,563                                       | 5,364                | 720                                | 42,099  | 8.4    |
| – semi-skilled .....                        | 85,780                   | 6,833                                       | 11,872               | 3,285                              | 107,770 | 21.4   |
| – skilled labourers .....                   | 52,363                   | 10,758                                      | 7,265                | 2,984                              | 73,370  | 14.6   |
| – general labourers .....                   | 137,316                  | 27,936                                      | 22,154               | 3,321                              | 190,727 | 37.9   |
| – Custodians .....                          | 2,835                    | 314   | 866                  | 14                                 | 4,029   | 0.8    |
| Apprentices .....                           | 13,331                   | 1,316                                       | 1,133                | 1,307                              | 17,087  | 3.4    |
| <i>Total</i> .....                          | 364,982                  | 55,729                                      | 52,899               | 29,295                             | 502,905 | 100. – |
| Female labour .....                         | 5,705                    | 792   | 1,438                | 542                                | 8,477   | 1.7    |
| Under 18 years .....                        | 13,606                   | 1,322                                       | 1,172                | 1,518                              | 17,618  | 3.5    |
| 18 and under 20 .....                       | 13,035                   | 1,418                                       | 1,536                | 1,329                              | 17,318  | 3.4    |

Examining territorial distribution, Table 1 reveals that the greatest concentration of the building industry is to be found in North Italy (23,436 local units employing 276,986 persons, against 8,757 and 108,980 of Southern and Insular Italy and 7,628 and 116,939 of Central Italy), particularly in Lombardy (7,251 local units with 92,957 persons employed), Piedmont (5,189 local units, 44,254 persons employed), Emilia and Romagna (4,005 local units with 46,163 persons

employed). These are followed by Tuscany (2,906 local units with 30,939 persons employed), Veneto (2,791 local units, 33,331 persons employed), Campania (2,585 local units, 22,535 persons employed), Latium (2,557 local units, 66,656 persons employed), Sicily (1,997 local units with 25,320 persons employed), Liguria (1,771 local units, 21,998 persons employed), Marches (1,546 local units with 13,398 persons employed), Apulia (1,328 local units with 16,477 persons employed), the Abruzzi and Molise (1,061 local units with 16,114 persons employed), Trentino-Alto Adige (983 local units with 17,280 persons employed), Calabria (779 local units with 12,851 persons employed), Friuli-Venetia Julia (736 local units with 9,938 persons employed), Sardinia (650 local units with 9,736 persons employed), Umbria (619 local units with 5,946 persons employed), Territory of Trieste (559 local units with 7,097 persons employed), Basilicata (357 local units with 5,947 persons employed) and Valle d'Aosta (151 local units with 3,968 persons employed).

Equipment used by the industry produces a total motive power of 299,086 h. p. which is produced by electric motors (82.1 %) and primary motors (17.9 %) such as hydraulic, steam, internal combustion engines.

32,087 electric motors have been installed by the building trade and these produce 194,948 kw. 291 generators have a total power of 10,643 kw, while 3,172 primary motors (51 hydraulic, 195 steam, 2,853 internal combustion and 73 non-classified types) have a total of 53,540 h. p.

Information revealed during the 1951 industrial census showed that the industry in question paid out 111,609 million lire during 1950 on the following items: salaries and wages – 72,849 million lire; various indemnities (holidays, bonuses, etc.) – 10,459 million lire; social contri-

Table III – EXPENDITURE OF PERSONNEL IN 1950

| BRANCH OF TRADE                           | Employers' Expenditure   |        |                                  |                                    | Grand Total | Withheld from employees |
|---|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
|   | Gross Wages and salaries |        | Contributions and other expenses |                                    |             |                         |
|   | Wages and Salaries       | Other  | Total                            | Social Insurance and contributions |             |                         |
| Building .....                            | 52,608                   | 7,710  | 20,737                           | 20,268                             | 81,055      | 1,658                   |
| Soil removal and road building .....      | 6,685                    | 878    | 2,565                            | 2,512                              | 10,128      | 204                     |
| Civil engineering .....                   | 12,187                   | 1,754  | 4,538                            | 4,307                              | 18,479      | 406                     |
| Minor and related building activity ..... | 1,369                    | 117    | 461                              | 449                                | 1,947       | 46                      |
| Total...                                  | 72,849                   | 10,459 | 28,301                           | 27,536                             | 111,609     | 2,315                   |
| %...                                      | 65.3                     | 9.4    | 25.3                             | 24.7                               | 100.-       | —                       |

butions and voluntary assistance given by companies (childrens' holiday camps, kindergartens, etc.) – 28,301 million lire; deductions from employees' wages and salaries eventually paid out with other contributions – 2,315 million lire.

Total gross expenditure, therefore, may be broken down as follows: 65.3 % for salaries and wages, 9.4 % for indemnities and 25.3 % for social benefits and other outgoings (24.7 % for social insurance and similar benefits).

The industrial census also revealed that 321,519 skilled workers and manual labourers were employed by the industry during 1950 (236,787 in building construction, 34,406 in soil removal and road works, 41,937 in civil engineering and 6,389 in minor building and related activities), with an average individual working month of 141 hours (Table IV).

Table IV – PERSONS EMPLOYED AND  
WORKING HOURS DURING 1956

| SKILLED WORKERS<br>AND HOURS OF WORK | Building<br>Construction | Soil Removal<br>and Road<br>Works | Civil<br>Engineering | Minor<br>building<br>and Related<br>Activities | Total   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------|
| Average workers employed .....       | 236,787                  | 36,406                            | 41,937               | 6,389  | 321,519 |
| Total Hours (1,000's) .....          | 398,985                  | 51,969                            | 81,558               | 10,247   | 542,760 |
| Hours per month per person ....      | 140                      | 119                               | 162                  | 134  | 141     |

| TYPE OF ACTIVITY                  | 1952           | 1953    | 1954      | 1955      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | (Number)       |         |           |           |
| Rooms built for habitation .....  | 684,604        | 889,269 | 1,062,624 | 1,283,982 |
| Other rooms .....                 | 64,773         | 82,789  | 102,931   | 125,277   |
| Public Works, etc.                | (Million lire) |         |           |           |
| Roads .....                       | 84,954         | 105,095 | 94,495    | 99,992    |
| Water .....                       | 26,906         | 26,157  | 22,390    | 19,408    |
| Port and Coastal .....            | 10,613         | 11,469  | 9,353     | 9,138     |
| Building .....                    | 151,121        | 168,548 | 161,759   | 148,859   |
| Railways .....                    | 13,738         | 18,059  | 33,425    | 42,816    |
| Sanitary and Public Hygiene ..... | 27,766         | 36,535  | 44,034    | 45,507    |
| Land Reclamation .....            | 50,455         | 67,773  | 62,103    | 56,425    |

No detailed information is available as to production, but the figures contained in the above table testify to the progress which the industry has made in the last few years.



## THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF ARTS AND COSTUME

### Its Aims And Activity Since 1951

The *Centro Internazionale delle Arti e del Costume* was founded at Palazzo Grassi in Venice on August 25, 1951. In order to understand the aims and activity of the Venice Centre it is important to realize that in Italian the word *costume* may mean both costume and customs; and that the International Centre uses the word in the wide and not the narrow sense. That is to say, it goes beyond a study of mere style in dress relating it, in any given historical period, to the way people live and respond to contemporary problems. It is as though dress was a starting point for defining an age in its artistic, social, and economic aspects, which cannot be divorced from customs and morality.

To illustrate and clarify this meaning of the word *costume* requires a study of human behaviours as a whole. The Centre has, therefore, organized exhibitions, shows, congresses, lectures, and meetings, conscious that only in these various ways can it give a synthesis of its ideas.

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The Centre's aims can be illustrated by an account of its activity, which began in 1951, with the inauguration of the Exhibition of Costume Through The Ages. The exhibition in itself was intended to synthesize the work and aims of the Centre, and was accompanied by an *Exhibition of Art Books on Costume* and one on *Theatre Décor in the Seventeenth Century*. The latter was more specialized: it proved of considerable interest to many scholars and theatre experts, and presented a collection of mainly unpublished documents of the seventeenth century which was decisive for stage design and movement.

The sum of activities during 1951 included: three theatrical productions (Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* produced by Giorgio Strehler; Anouilh's *La Répétition* produced by Barrault; and Carlo Goldoni's *La casa Nova* and *L'Avaro* produced by C. V. Ludovici and C. Bassoglio); the *Third International Festival of Fashion and Costume in the Film* which, under the joint patronage of the Centre and the international Film Festival, was inaugurated at Palazzo Grassi with a procession of historic costumes and continued at the Lido with the presentation of new models; and two international conventions, that on *Cinema and Theatre Fashions* (which put forward the prospect of establishing permanent collaboration between haute couture, the Cinema and Theatre), and the preparatory meeting for the *International Congress « Unity in Textiles »* programmed for 1952.

The activities of 1952 were all intended to illustrate a single theme: the history of silk. The Exhibition, *The Legend of the Gold Thread*, was followed by two international congresses, that on *Unity in Textiles* and the *First International Congress on History of Costume*. The preparatory convention on textiles sought to define their place among other commercial products, and to identify those factors of the production cycle — from the manufacture of the fibres to the finished market product — which can be unified. The first congress on the history of costume, which was attended by seventeen countries, elaborated a new concept: costume as the product of artistic creation, economic factors, political achievements, and geographical conquests.

1953 saw the *Exhibition of French Tapestry* organized at Palazzo Grassi, under the patronage of the French and Italian Governments, as part of cultural exchanges between the two countries. At the same time French experts gave lectures on the art of tapestry which served to reveal to Italians a little-known aspect of French costume.

The first event in 1954 was the *Exhibition of Textiles of the Future*, which aimed to catalogue the many uses of newly-created fibres in diverse branches of modern life. But the most important exhibition of the year was *Venezia Viva* (Venice Alive), an ample documentation of the city's development down the centuries and a statement of present problems concerning its rebirth. A lecture cycle on the city and a series of Goldonian productions in the open-air theatre of Palazzo Grassi were arranged as accompanying events. 1954 also saw the beginning of the Centre's work abroad: the *Exhibition of Italian Ancient and Modern Artistic Fabrics* was held first in Lausanne and then in Delft in Holland.

In 1955, upon request by the Austrian authorities, the exhibition *Venice Alive* was brought to Salzburg where it was hailed by critics and the public. In the same year an exhibition of works, now hanging in Polish Museums, by the Venetian painter Bernardo Bellotto (the nephew of Canaletto), who worked in Warsaw for many years, was organized at Palazzo Grassi under the auspices of the Italian and Polish Governments. Works by the Polish painter Gieryski, who resided in Italy, were shown to the public at the same time.

*Fashion in Contemporary Costume*, the first international show of its kind, was the name of the exhibition held at Palazzo Grassi in August 1956. 120 Houses, representing the latest fashions, outfitters, and boutiques from 8 countries, took part, offering 300 models as a comprehensive sample of fashion in dress to-day. *Textile Art and Costumes of India* was held at Palazzo Grassi the same month: the exhibition presented a panorama of textile products as the fruit of

Indian handicrafts and a centuries-old process closely linked to the traditions, religion, and culture, of the country.

\* \* \*

During its first five years of life the Centre promoted various publications on art and costume, and at the beginning of the sixth year such activity was redoubled. Besides publication of the records of various Congresses (the reports on the *First Theatre Workshop Convention* of 1954 and on that entitled *The Term and Concept of Costume* in 1957 were the most important) the publication of the *History of Venice* in 16 volumes was begun, a large group of scholars of international repute having collaborated in the work.

In July 1956, at Palazzo Grassi, the Centre collaborated with the Venice Commune in order to put on the exhibition, *Goldoni: From Masques to Comedy*, which was the central item in the 250th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Carlo Goldoni. September saw the holding, within the framework of the exhibition, of an exceptional *Fashion Review*. 11 of the most important Italian Fashion Houses took part: 25 mannequins displayed 120 models from the autumn and winter collections. The originality of this event was due to its integration with the Goldonian anthology: famous artists of the Italian theatre, who were wearing valuable costumes created with scrupulous historical fidelity by Nino Novarese, commented on the parading mannequins with madrigals and amusing remarks drawn from those Goldonian comedies which refer most to fashion and costume.

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# THE ITALIAN AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS SOCIETY

## Aims and Achievements During 75 Years Of Activity

The Italian Authors and Publishers Society was founded in Milan on April 23, 1882, as a private concern with the name «Società Italiana degli Autori». Its foundations were laid by an assembly of writers, musicians, playwrights, scholars, and publishers. One of their number, the well-known historian, Cesare Cantù, was made honorary president; while Senator Tullo Massarani was nominated effective president. Illustrious men from the fields of literature, music, and the theatre were co-opted onto the governing council, including Verdi and Carducci, De Sanctis and Ferrari, de Amicis and Prati. The first task of the society was the protection of copyright which did not prove easy, for the early years were spent in propaganda activity to acquaint the general public with the moral and legal principles involved in safeguarding products of the human mind (1).

In the same year that this society came into existence, various laws concerning authors' rights were coordinated and issued. They included those passed after the basic law of 1865, especially the Law of August 10, 1875, which abolished any distinction between published and unpublished works and did much for the defence of the rights of performance and execution. It was a stimulus for the Society in its work of seeking further legislation during its first five years of life.

At the same time, the Society reorganized and modified its statute. As a result of this it was recognized as a «moral organization» on February 1, 1891. For fifteen years the Society saw its prestige and membership grow, but, as its resources were limited and its practical difficulties large, concrete results in economic terms were discouraging. A second period of activity lasted from 1896 until 1926. It was characterized by the continued defence of authors' rights by means of administrative vigilance and close attention to legal verdicts and opinion. This undoubtedly led to the practice in Italy of respect by third parties for the exclusive right of performance and execution of musical works in public. The Society continued with its efforts to get old legislation revized and, in 1925, its Director General, Alessandro Varaldo, stressed the following three fundamental points: 1) the safeguarding of a work should no longer be determined by its date of publication but by the life of the author up to fifty years after his death; 2) the suppression of all administrative formalities as a condition of such safeguarding; 3) the re-acquisition of any rights no longer

(1) Data have been drawn from the book: S.I.A.E., *Settantacinque anni di attività* (Seventy-five years of activity). Roma, Stabilimento A. Staderini, 1957. L. 1000.

safeguarded through lack of a deposit. The outcome of this insistence was the Decree Law No. 1950 of November 7, 1925, which was converted into Law No. 1562, of March 18, 1926. In 1927, the Society assumed the name of *Società Italiana Autori e Editori*.

The next step was in 1936, when a ministerial commission presided over by Amedeo Giannini was set up to study further radical reform in legislation. Law No. 633 of April 22, 1941, was approved and is still in force. It is to be seen in relation to articles 2575-2583 of the New Civil Code issued at the same time, and is up-to-date because it regulates auxiliary rights of works of the mind connected with new inventions like the phonogram, the cinema, radio, television, and the magnetophone. At the same time, the Society did not fail to improve its administration, its network of agents, and increase its income and profits. Law No. 633 defines the Society as a public body with the exclusive right to act as intermediary, either directly or indirectly, by means of representatives or of a mandate. Such activity can take various forms: the granting of licences and authorization (on behalf of authors) for the economic utilization of safeguarded works; the collecting of fees deriving from such licences and authorization; and their distribution among the authors concerned. The same Law endows the Society with other functions, which are recognized in its statute (approved by Royal Decree in August 1942, No. 1799, and modified by Presidential Decree No. 643, April 16, 1948). Among them: the placing of its countermark on copies of works that may have been the object of a publishing contract; the keeping of a register of value-increases in works of figurative art; the keeping of a Public Cinematograph Register. By means, also, of a special agreement with the Ministry of Finance, the Society ascertains, liquidates, and collects taxes on various forms of entertainment (sport not excluded), on betting and on pools, etc. and taxes on the performance, execution, and broadcasting of works that have become public property. In accordance with art. 182 of the law on authors' rights, the Society is supervised by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Copyright Department) consonant with Law No. 633 and the Society's statute.

From 1941-1945 the Society was known as *Ente Italiano per il Diritto di Autore* (Italian Organisation for Authors' Rights), but resumed its old name with the return of Democracy. Its various branches were re-formed and regular elections have occurred every three years since 1948. It is divided into five sections: Music, Drama, Opera and Review, Literary Works, Cinema; each of these sections has a Commission; there is an Assembly of all Commissions and an Administrative Council. Section Commissions are composed of authors, publishers, or producers who have to decide the extent of authors' royal-



ties and according to what criteria compensation should be given. The Assembly approves the Society's budget, nominates a president, and the elective members of the Administrative Council, the College of Revisers, and the legal Council, and examines the Society's general organization and proposes modifications of the statute. Besides authors and editors, a representative of the Presidency of the Council and one from the Ministry of Finance serve on the Administrative Council (1).

The Society looks after the rights and interests of its members who are of two sorts. The first are more active in their work of intellectual production or its utilization in the form of records, films, or television programmes: they number 586, take part in the Society's assemblies, and are entitled to insurance and pension benefits. At present, 200 older members and 100 widows of former members enjoy an annual pension. The second class of members, of whom there are about 12,000, comprises those who only occasionally go in for authorship.

The Society's funds have steadily increased: the gross income had reached 47,000 millions by 1956 including money accruing from entertainment tax which is paid into the Treasury. The Society's agents exceed 2,000, and the dependants controlling places of entertainment number 9,000.

As for work in the international field, the Society, in June 1926, helped to constitute the « Confédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques » which comprised societies in 16 different countries. Its scope expanded through Italian initiative, and it embraced societies protecting the rights of authors of musical works in June 1927. This led to the birth of the CISAC (Confédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs) incorporating 40 separate societies at its Paris headquarters. The « charter » of authors' rights, approved at Hamburg in 1956 during the XIXth Congress of the CISAC, embodies a number of propositions in five chapters, based upon principles dealing with authors' rights, and the aims and scope of authors' societies that the Italian society had acknowledged for some time in Italy.

The Italian Society for Authors and Editors has also been active in seeking protection for products of the mind in the international field by means of bilateral and multi-lateral agreements. Development of legislation about authors' rights in all countries impressed the

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(1) Two periodicals are published under the auspices of the society: *Il diritto d'autore*, a quarterly concerned with rights and jurisprudence; and *Lo spettacolo*, which reviews economic and social aspects of entertainment and artistic and cultural activity. Recently, the Piola Caselli prize was instituted for studies on authors' rights, and measures to protect Italian works abroad have been promoted.

need for a new Convention to bring the Berne writ of 1886 up-to-date. The Italian society took its full share in formulating the universal Convention stipulated at Geneva on September 6, 1952, under the auspices of UNESCO which saw America associated with other countries in a multilateral agreement. This Convention came into force in Italy on January 24, 1957: it imposes the obligation of protecting products of the mind without any formality. The only condition is that works bear the letter C (Copyright) enclosed in a circle and followed by the name of the holder of the author's rights and the year of publication. The Italian society has three agencies abroad (Paris, New York, and Buenos Aires) to protect its members in conformity with the Conventions, and has ties with similar associations in 38 states for whom it collects royalties as part of a reciprocal agreement.



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## PRESS AGENCIES

## 151 Information Bulletins Published in Rome

The press agencies are a typically modern form of current journalism. The releases published by these agencies, whether supplying definite information on political, economic, social, and cultural matters or expressing the opinions of particular circles on problems of the moment, are of great importance to the newspapers. Many and varied circumstances have favoured the activity of such agencies during the past few years, although some have had a very short life. For the purpose of permitting the reader to understand a little more about the essential role which they play in every-day journalism, « Italian Affairs » has considered it opportune to write something about those agencies which are to be found in Rome although, for obvious reasons, a complete picture is not possible.

This list has been compiled from those bulletins which are received by the Press Office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and, therefore, is not necessarily complete or official. For the purpose of bringing the list up-to-date at any time, these agencies have been listed according to the date on which they were founded and according to whether they were still in operation at the end of 1957. Information furnished on them includes name, address, editor or manager, etc. A list, in alphabetical order, appears at the end of the article.

## Before 1944

1. *La Pace* - Daily - General information. Rome, via Gradisca 12. Editor: Ezio Bartalini.
2. *La Corrispondenza* - Daily - World events, tourism, arts, domestic. Rome, via Lucullo 3. Editor: Giulio Castelli.
3. *Agenzia Economica Finanziaria* - Politics, finance. Rome, via Frattina 73. Editor: Giovanni Zambelli.
4. *L'Italia d'oggi* - General information. Rome, corso d'Italia 92. Editor: Alighiero Felici.
5. *L'Informazione* - Daily - General information. Rome, via della Mercedes 52. Editor: Roberto Minetto.
6. *Romapress* - Political, economic, financial. Rome, corso d'Italia 6. Editor: Francesco Paolo Mongelli.
7. *Agenzia d'Informazioni Giornalistiche (A.G.I.T.)*. Rome, via del Traforo 146. Editor: Antonio Lezza.
8. *Italpress* - Daily - Industry, commerce, agriculture, tourism, cinema, theatre. Rome, via Bisagno 24. Editor: Angelo Spadanuda.

## 1944

9. *Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (A.N.S.A.)*. Rome, via Propaganda 27. Manager: Angelo Magliano.



## 1945

10. *Urbs* - General information. Rome, largo Argentina 11. Editor: Aldo Ferlini

## 1946

11. *Agenzia Finanziaria Internazionale (A.F.I.)* - Daily press information. Rome, piazza S. Silvestro 3. Editor: Eugenio Cacace.  
 12. *Ecomond Press* - General information. Rome, via Padova 1. Editor: Daniel Cametti Aspri.

## 1947

13. *Agenzia Italiana di Informazioni (A.I.D.I.)*. Rome, via Tigre 16. Italian edition: Via della Stelletta 23. Editor: Emanuele Bonfiglio.  
 14. *Agenzia Italiana Sportiva (A.I.S.)* - Daily. Rome, via dei Sabini 7. Editor: Alberto Ugolini.  
 15. *Agenzia Nazionale Italiana Radiocor (R.E.U.T.E.R.)* - Daily - Political, economic, financial. Rome, via Condotti 61. Manager- Gianfranco Cobor.  
 16. *Bussola* - Intercontinental exchange - Daily - Parliamentary reports, political and financial. Rome, piazza di Spagna 35. Editor: Giuseppe Fabbri.  
 17. *Notiziario* - Daily - Published by the « Centro Studi e Pubblicazioni della Federazione Italiana dei Consorzi Agrari ». Rome, via Yser 14. Manager: U. Gallimberti

## 1948

18. *Agenzia della Stampa Italiana (TELEGRAPH)*. Rome, piazza di Spagna 35. Editor: Enzo Paratore.  
 19. *Agenzia Romana Note e Informazioni d'Attualità (A.R.N.I.A.)*. Rome, casella postale 2384/A.D., via Calabria 12. Editor: Vincenzo Cavallaro.  
 20. *Mondar* - Mediterranean News. Rome, via Toscana 1. Editor: Paolo Occhipinti.

## 1949

21. *Informazioni Stampa Internazionale (I.S.I.)* - Rome, via XX Settembre 3. Editor: Luciano Di Puolo.

## 1950

22. *Bollettino Danubiano (BO.DA.)* - Information and comments on events in the Danube basin. Rome, via della Mercede 54, Foreign Press Club. Editor: Eugenio de Aldisio.  
 23. *Bollettino di Informazioni* - Centro Studi Adriatici - Weekly. Rome, piazza Venezia, Vittoriano. Editor: Umberto Nani.  
 24. *Bollettino Quindicinale di Informazioni* - Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Roma. Rome, via Barberini 47. Editor: Lelio Timossi.  
 25. *Informazione Parlamentare* - Industry, agriculture, commerce, finance (twice weekly). Rome, via G. Chiovenda 96, casella postale 2471/AD. Editor: F. Argentino.  
 26. *Informatore Sociale (IN.SO.)* - Daily - Labour Union information. Rome, via della Stelletta 23. Editor: Aldo Barbaro; Assistant Editor: Mario Barbieri.

27. *Lettera Quotidiana* (TOL editorial group). Rome, via Toscana 1. Manager: I. Lo Cascio; Founder: Daniele Occhipinti.
28. *Servizi Speciali Stampa* (S.S.S.) – Statistics and documentation. Rome, via S. Eufemia 19. Editor: C. F. Scaparro.
29. *Universal Press and Euroamerican Agency Press Ass.* – International press agency. Rome, via del Giuba 10. Manager: Costanzo Edoardo Giussani.
30. *Agenzia Giornalistica Italia*. Rome, via di Campo Marzio 12. Editor: Adolfo Annesi.

### 1951

31. *Agemar* – Daily – Politics and legislation – Mercantile Marine – Civil Aviation – Transport and Tourism. Rome, piazza di Spagna 35. Editor: Carlo Villata.
32. *Agenzia Italiani nel Mondo* (for Italian press abroad). Rome, via Romagna 14. Editor: Leonida Felletti.
33. *Agenzia Politica Economica* (A.P.E.). Rome, piazza di Pietra 26. Editor: Guido Elli.
34. *Ciampino Press* (C.P.) – Daily – Editorial offices: Ciampino, Rome. Administrative offices: via Lucilla 37. Editor: Gino Magnoni.
35. *Est-Ovest* – Daily. Rome, rampa Mignanelli 12. Editor: L. Celli.
36. *Economic News from Italy* – Weekly supplement to *Est-Ovest*. Rome, rampa Mignanelli 12.
37. *News from Italy* – Daily – English language edition of *Est-Ovest*. Rome, rampa Mignanelli 12.
38. *Hermes Press* – International News Agency. Rome, via del Collegio Capranica 4 (Administrative offices). Head office, viale Carso 9. Editor: Luigi Filippo Moglia.
39. *Notizie Giudiziarie*. Rome, Lungotevere Cenci 4. Editor: Luigi Tiraferri.
40. *Transport* – Daily – Information on transport and communications. Political, economic, industrial, commercial, financial. Rome, piazza Belle Arti 6. Editor: M. Favia del Core.
41. *Unio Press Service* – Italian edition. General information. Rome, viale Regina Margherita 46. Editor: Simon Pietro Zilahy.
42. *Notiziario Europeo* – Information, documentation and orientation on European nations. « Centro d'Azione Europeistica ». Rome, via Agostino De Pretis 86. Editor: Carlo Ramacciotti.

### 1952

43. *Agenzia Giornalistica Informazioni Mezzogiorno* (A.G.I.M.). Rome, piazza di Spagna 35. Editor: Luigi Bruno.

44. *Agenzia Kronos* – Daily – General information. Rome, via del Boccaccio 8. Editor: Andrea Cicala.
45. *Agenzia Romana Informazioni (A.R.I.)* – General information. Rome, piazza Montecitorio 121. Editor: Guido Baroni.
46. *Centro Italiano di Informazione e di Divulgazione (C.I.D.I.S.)* – Economic, financial and labour information. Rome, via F. Crispi 20. Co-eds: Luigi Lojacono – Felice Facciotti.
47. *Interpress* – Daily – Economic and financial news. Rome, via De Burrò 154. Editor: Aristide Raimondi.
48. *Notizie per gli Emigrati (I.N.M.)* – Supplement to *Italiani nel Mondo*. Rome, via Romagna 14. Editor: Leonida Felletti.
49. *Radio Free Europe*. Rome, via Isonzo 50. Manager: William H. Fanning jr.
50. *Agenzia di Informazione per Settimanali Diocesani (S.I.S.)* – Weekly press service. Rome, via della Conciliazione 1. Editor: Mario Ferrari.

## 1953

51. *Agenzia Continentale* – General information. Rome, via Lazio 20-C. Editor: Vittorio Fontana.
52. *Agenzia d'Europa (A.D.E.)* – Daily – General information. Rome, via del Corso 504. Editor: G. B. Cerchiai.
53. *Agenzia di Informazioni Diplomatiche (C.D.)*. Rome, via Frattina 38. Editor: Vittore Querel.
54. *Agenzia Parlamentare Italiana (A.P.I.)*. Rome, via Frattina 89. Editor: Italo Bassi.
55. *Agenzia Roma* – General information – political news – Daily. Rome, via IV Novembre 149. Editor: Romolo Mangione.
56. *Bollettino di Informazioni* – published by Confederterra Nazionale. Rome, via Boncompagni 19. Editor: Euno Pizzini.
57. *Express* – International Press Agency. Rome, via Vigevano 2. Sub-editor: Raoul Antonio Rossi.
58. *Kosmos* – Daily – general news, politics, economy, current events. Rome, via in Arcione 71. Editor: Franco Guerrieri.
59. *L'Informazione Italiana* – Press agency. Rome, via Rasella 6. Editor: Adriano Bolzoni.
60. *International Press* – Information on Entertainment. Rome, via XX Settembre 3. Editor: Renato Portoghese.
61. *Notiziario Marinaro* – Centro Italiano Notiziari Stampa (C.I.N.S.). Independent news and information. Rome, via Col di Lana 11. Editor: Gino Ben Amozegh.
62. *E.N.I.* – Twice-monthly news bulletin for the press and the Italian Radio (R.A.I.) published by the National Fuels Group (E.N.I.) Editor: Vincenzo Russo.



1954

63. *Agenzia Informazioni Rapporti Internazionali (A.I.R.I.)*. Rome, via Bolzano 28. Editor: Luigi Scrivo.
64. *Agenzia Internazionale Stampa Associata (A.I.S.A.)* - Daily. Rome, via S. Maria in Via 38. Editor: Antonio Ambra.
65. *Agenzia Nazionale* - General Information. Rome, via Rasella 6. Editor: F. M. Servello.
66. *Agenzia Nazionale di Informazioni Turistiche (A.N.I.T.)*. Rome, via Po 102. Editor: Alberto Calcagno.
67. *Il Dramma Antico* - Monthly bulletin published by «Istituto Nazionale del Dramma Antico». Rome, via Giustiniani 5. Editor: Nino Sammartano.
68. *Elta-Press* - Lithuanian information service. Rome, via Casalmonteferrato 20. Editor: Domenico Rosati.
69. *Esse 3. Agenzia di stampa* - Rome, via della Consulta 11. Editor: Enzo M. Ramondini.
70. *Informazioni Cinematografiche Italiane (I.C.I.)*. Rome, via Gregoriana 56. Editor: Sandro Reanda.
71. *Agenzia Nazionale Sport* - Sports service of the *Agenzia Nazionale*. Rome, via Rasella 6. Editor: F. M. Servello.
72. *Informazioni Cultura Arte Internazionali (I.C.A.I.)* - Information on arts and culture. Articles and stories by world famous writers. Interviews - Documentation. Lido Roma, viale del Lido 48. Editor: Aurora Beniamino.
73. *Inpress Daily* - Daily - general news from Inpress. Rome, via del Bufalo 126. Editor: dott. Giorgio Lay.
74. *I.P.I. (International Press Service)* - Italian news. Rome, piazza Esquilino 29, int. 5. Editor: Crescenzo Di Lullo.
75. *Italmondo* - International press agency - news bulletin, thrice weekly. Rome, via della Stamperia 68. Editor: Francesco Casadio.
76. *Note Economiche* - Confidential economic news service. Rome, via di Pietra 84. Editor: V. A. Sarnacchioli.
77. *Notiziario Sanitario* - National and foreign news - Supplement to the daily «Notiziario della Stampa», published by the A.N.S.A. Press Agency. Rome, via Propaganda 37. Editor: Angelo Magliano.
78. *Servizio Informazioni Parlamentari* - Political news service for the daily Press. Rome, via della Vite 94. P.O. Box 209. Editor: Gino Crispino.
79. *Siciliapress* - Press news bulletin. Rome, viale Bruno Buozzi 68. Editor: Michele Bonanno di Linguaglossa.
80. *Stampa Politica Economica (S.P.E.)* - Daily news bulletin. Rome, via G. B. Martini 13. Editor: A. Ambrosini.
81. *Urbe* - General Catholic news agency. Rome, via F. Cesi 2. Editor: Franco Pasotti.

82. *Agenzia Nazionale Informazioni Giovanili (A.N.I.G.)* - Weekly. Rome (Prati), P.O. Box 6230. Editor: Pietro Vertecchi.

83. *Notiziario Sasi* - Daily political, economic and trades union news bulletin. Rome, via Crescenzo 17-A, int. 4. Editor: Rodolfo Monti.

## 1955

84. *Agenzia del Medio Oriente (A.D.M.O.)* - Economic and political news service of the Arab and Islam countries. Rome, via A. G. Barri 14. Editor: Rodolfo Boutet.

85. *Agenzia Giornalistica Rurale di Informazioni (A.G.R.I.)*. Rome, via di Pietra 84. Editor: Vittorio Fedele.

86. *Agenzia Internazionale dello Spettacolo (A.I.S.)* - International agency for news, articles, information and photographic service on Cinema and Theatre. Rome, via del Boschetto 64. Editor: Alvis Artissi.

87. *A.I.C.I.* (Agenzia d'Informazioni fra i Comuni d'Italia). Rome, via in Arcione 101. Editor: Bonifacio Palumbo.

88. *L'Arco* - General news agency. Rome, via Gian Domenico Romagnosi 20. Editor: Roberto Roberti.

89. *Agenzia di Informazioni e Commenti per la Stampa (I.C.S.)*. Rome, via di Ripetta 246. Editor: David Brocani.

90. *Servizio Informazioni Brevi (S.I.B.)* - Daily press agency. Rome, via della Mercede 33. Editor: Renato Moretti.

91. *Servizio Informazioni Stampa (S.I.S.)*. Rome, via della Conciliazione 1. Editor: Mario Ferrari.

92. *I.G.I.* (Informazioni Giornalistiche Internazionali) - Parliamentary and diplomatic news service. Rome, via Costabella 21. Editor: C. Filippi.

93. *AG.I.F.* (Agenzia di Informazioni Federaliste). Rome, piazza di Trevi 86. Editor: Mario Arpea.

94. *AG.OR.* (Agenzia Orientamenti) - Daily bulletin of political and economic news. Rome, vicolo del Babuccio 38. Editor: Casimiro Céas. Assist. editor: Roberto Trombetti.

95. *S.A.F.J.* - Press - International press service for news, children's films and information. Rome, via Poliziano 51. Editor: G. C. Montefoschi.

96. *AIT* (Agenzia Italiana) - Political, economic and trades union news bulletin. Rome, via Boccaccio 8. Editor: Mario Menghini.

97. *DIES* - Press news agency. Rome, via IV Fontane. Editor: Ugo Manunta.

98. *C.C.S.* - Daily news service of the Catholic Press. Rome, via della Conciliazione 1. Editor: Giovanni Fallani. Assist. editor: Mario Ferrari.

99. *Il Coltivatore* – Daily news bulletin of the National Confederation of Smallholders. Rome, via XXIV Maggio 43. Editor: Valentino Crea.
100. *I.D.E.* (Informatore Diplomatico Economico) – Press. agency Rome, via Vetulonia 63. Editor: G. Brombini Grilli.
101. *Interstampa* – International press service. Rome, via Chianti 7. Editor: Guido Piccoli.
102. *Libertà della Cultura* – Bulletin of the Italian Association for Freedom in Cultural Activities – Published every month. Rome, piazza Accademia S. Luca 75. Editor: Guglielmo Petroni.
103. *Il Mondo Turistico*. Press information agency – Rome, via Sicilia 160. Editor: Italo Poggini.
104. *Notizie dall'E.N.P.I.* Rome, via Boncompagni 101. Editor: Liberato Pezzoli.
105. *S.IT.* (Stampa Italiana) – Daily – Political news. Rome, piazza delle Muse 8. Editor: Eduardo Stolfi.
106. *Studio* 55. Rome, via Zucchelli 27. Editor: Gianni Florio.
107. *Tribuna Finanziaria* – Documentation and information. Rome, via Due Macelli 9. Editor: G. C. Volonté.

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108. *A.R.I.S.* (Agenzia Relazioni Italo-Scandinave) – Weekly. Rome, via Due Macelli 47. Editor: Salvatore Mattarella.
109. *A.S.T.* (Agenzia Stampa Tecnica) – Thrice weekly. Rome, via S. Eufemia 19. Editor: Eugenio Gandolfi.
110. *A.T.I.* (Agenzia Tele-Informazioni). Rome, S. Maria in Via 38. Editor: Antonio Amici.
111. *Bollettino quotidiano di Informazione*, published by the Pontifical Assistance in Italy. Press service. Rome, piazza B. Cairoli 117. Editor: V. Picelli.
112. *L'Eco di Roma* – Information and news for the press. Rome, via Rasella 53. Editor: Nello Cervino.
113. *I.D.A.S.* – Social insurance and assistance. Weekly. Rome, via Crescenzio 19. President: Hon. Angela Gotelli. Editor: Armando Ravaglioli.
114. *Informazioni Internazionali «X»* – Political news. Thrice weekly. Rome, via Sette Sale. Editor: Mario V. Forni.
115. *I.N.T.R.A.* (Transport Information) – Published thrice weekly. Information on railways, civil transport, sea and air transport. Rome, piazza di Spagna 35. Editor: Lucio Brenno.
116. *I.S.P.* Published by Institute of Parliamentary Studies. Rome, via Bocca di Leone 78. Editor: Gabriella Lepore Dubois.
117. *Italia Cattolica* – Daily. Rome, via Monterone 4. Editor: Benedetto Todini.



118. *Agenzia Milano Informazioni (A.M.I.)* - Political, financial and economic news. Rome, via Santa Maria in Via 38. Editor: Corrado Ragozzino.

119. *Mondo* - International events. Rome, via A. Bignami 21. Proprietor: Gino Sotis. Manager: Armando Troni. Editor: L. Troni Marino.

120. *N.E.M. (Notizie Europee e Mondiali)*. World and European Information agency. Rome, via Velletri 10. Editor: Basilio Cialdea.

121. *Notizie per la stampa* - Published by the Italian National Committee of the World Organization of the Light of Brotherhood. Rome, via Trinità dei Pellegrini 12. Editor: Tommaso Taffiorelli.

122. *Nuova Stefani* - Daily. Rome, via Campo Marzio 12. Editor: Roberto Suster.

123. *La Pesca* - Weekly. Rome, via Savoia 78. Editor: Alberto Figato.

124. *Sports* - Sport news. Rome, via G. Severano 35. Joint editors: Franco Pasotti and Pietro Pasotti.

125. *Tades* - Periodical publishing information and documentation on State legislation and application of new laws. Rome, via R. Emilia n. 61. Joint editors: Giuseppe Bragato and Giuseppe Caputi.

126. *Tempo Libero* - Twice weekly. Rome, via Montegiordano n. 36. Editor: Giovanni Valente.

127. *Agenzia Tevere* - General information. Rome, via E. Gianfranco 11. Editor: Vitaliano Bellucci.

128. *Tiber Press* - International Press Agency. Rome, via Cavour n. 150. Editor: Italia Restivo.

129. *Voxinter* - Economic and social news. Twice weekly. Rome, via del Gallinaccio 8. Editor: V. Salvi.

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130. *Agecomes* - Foreign Trade. Thrice weekly. Rome, largo Chigi 19 (Administrative offices, via Gosio 19). Editor: Vittorio Barsotti.

131. *Algeria Libera* - Published by the Propaganda Office of the Algerian National Movement in Italy (M.N.A.). Rome, casella post. n. 35.

132. *Agenzia giornalistica atlantica (A.T.L.A.)* - Politics and economics. Rome, via Torino 40. Editor: Roberto Beltrani.

133. *Eurinform* - General information. Rome, via Stresa 27. Editor: Antonio Dorsa.

134. *Eurostampa* - News for Italian and foreign press. Rome, via Vittoria Colonna 39. Editor: Enzo Fogliati.

135. *L'Informatore Romano* - Daily. Rome, piazza Mignanelli 1. Editor: Maurizio Rodinò. Assistant: Giuseppe Caprarelli.

136. *L'Informatore Vinicolo* - Technical and economic information on wine growing - Daily. Rome, via Fonteiana 142. Joint editors: Giuseppe Pavesio; Luigi Lunardoni.

137. *Notiziario del Consiglio d'Europa* - Every fifteen days. Rome, piazza Montecitorio 121. Editor: Guido Baroni.
138. *Notiziario legislativo* - Parliamentary service of legislation. Rome, via di Ripetta 246. Editor Massimo Uffreduzzi.
139. *Agenzia di notizie Nuova Cina* - News bulletin published by the Centre for Development of Relations with China. Rome, piazza Montecitorio 115. Editor: Sergio Segre.
140. *Notiziario quotidiano U.S.I.S.* (United States Information Service). Rome, via Boncompagni 2.
141. *Notiziario del Turismo - Centro Italiano Notiziari Stampa (C.I.N.S.)*. Rome, via Col di Lana 11. Editor: Gino Ben Amozegh.
142. *Agenzia Giornalistica Repubblica (A.G.I.R.)* - Daily. Rome, via della Fontanella di Borghese 23. Editor: Lando dell'Amico.
143. *Roma Informazioni* - Political, economic and parliamentary information. Three times a week. Rome, casella postale 27. Editor: Cesare Scelfo.
144. *Servizio Informazioni Mediterranee* - Weekly. Rome, via Boncompagni 16, III floor. Editor: Luigi Pompei.
145. *Unieuropa*. Press information agency. Rome, via Torino 163. Editor: Francesco Eugenio Roccella.
146. *NEA* - European current events. Rome, via Ripetta 246. Editor: Secondo Olimpico.
147. *SASIT* - Agricultural information. Rome, via Tomacelli 146. Editor: Giovanni Pesce.
148. *Libera Stampa* (Free Press) - Rome, via Frattina 41. Editor: Antonio Spinosa.
149. *EURO* - East Europe Information. Rome, via della Camilluccia 195 (F). Editor: Egisto De Andreis.
150. *SAI* - International Associated Press. Rome, viale dei quattro venti 47. Editor: Placido Magrì.
151. *Agenzia SUD Informazioni*. Rome, via Santa Maria in Via 37. Editor: Alfredo Carrubba.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS IN 1956

## A halt in public expenditure

The year 1956 was marked by a slowdown in public expenditure on entertainments and the total of 147.6 milliard lire, registered for the period in question, was the same as that recorded in 1955. The post-war period, in fact, had produced a constant increase in expenditure on all forms of entertainment, surpassing rises in income and average purchases of consumer goods, and giving material for comments which have not always been favourable.

Without drawing too much on the statistics available, it can be affirmed that the contraction is mainly the result of factors which are far more subtle than those which accompanied the constant rise of the immediate post-war period. If a complete picture is to be given of the amount of income which the Italian public generally devotes to recreative pastimes included under the item "entertainments", other sums must be added to the figure of 147.6 milliard lire mentioned above. Revenue from the sale of broadcast receiving licenses amounted to 20.1 milliard lire, while television licences totalled 4.4 milliard lire. The purchase of gramophone records may be calculated at 0.4 milliard lire. Added to the previous figures, this brings the total to 172.5 milliard lire (1). However, the last three items quoted have figures which are in excess of those registered in 1955 (7.2 % for receiving licenses, 23.8 % for records sales and 104.8 % for television licences).

It follows, therefore, that the current static period is the outcome of reduced expenditure on other forms of entertainment. The cause, whatever it may be, is of a general nature, because drops in receipts are common everywhere. Peculiar only to the larger metropolitan areas in preceding years, similar tendencies are now to be seen in the medium and small cities and provincial towns with the exception of insular Italy where average expenditure is still high.

Table I - ENTERTAINMENTS: EXPENDITURE PER  
GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION (1956)

(in lire)

| GEOGRAPHICAL<br>DIVISION | Provincial<br>Capitals | Rest<br>of Provinces | Totals<br>Provinces | % Variation<br>over 1955 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Northern Italy .....     | 50,482,227,666         | 29,015,142,707       | 79,497,370,373      | — 0.08                   |
| Central Italy.....       | 23,982,831,408         | 9,695,016,571        | 33,677,847,979      | — 0.75                   |
| Southern Italy.....      | 12,086,402,799         | 8,963,769,074        | 21,050,171,873      | — 3.27                   |
| Insular Italy .....      | 8,299,200,491          | 5,105,712,953        | 13,404,913,444      | + 9.01                   |
| Italy ...                | 94,850,662,364         | 52,779,641,305       | 147,630,303,669     | —                        |

(1) See also: *Lo spettacolo in Italia, Annuario statistico Anno 1956*, edited by « Società Italiana degli Autori ». Tip. Failli, Rome (1,000 lire).



Expenditure on entertainments in Rome and Milan account for about one fifth (1/5), or 19.5%, of the total figure of 147.6 milliard lire, this being a slight drop in respect of 1955. Cities with 500,000 inhabitants account for 16%, those with 200/250,000 inhabitants approximately 10.8% and Communes with 100/200,000 inhabitants about 8%. The remaining Communes account for 47% of the total figure (Table II).

Table II – PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON ALL FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF ITALY DURING 1956

| CITY  | Public Expenditure | ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT                                       | Public Expenditure |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Rome .....  | 14,540,101,889     | <i>Communes with 100,001 to 200,000 inhabitants .....</i> | 11,942,784,444     |
| Milan .....   | 14,397,475,121     | <i>Communes with 50,001 to 100,000 inhabitants .....</i>  | 3,650,707,833      |
| Naples .....  | 5,382,471,329      | <i>Communes with under 50,000 inhabitants .....</i>       | 67,136,738,733     |
| Turin .....   | 6,491,934,145      |   |                    |
| Genoa .....   | 5,488,351,318      |   |                    |
| Palermo .....   | 2,777,922,573      |   |                    |
| <i>Communes with over 500,000 inhabitants .....</i>       | 49,078,256,375     |   |                    |
| Florence .....  | 4,083,296,465      | Italy ...   | 147,630,303,666    |
| Bologna .....   | 3,392,583,247      |   |                    |
| Venice .....  | 1,972,073,054      |   |                    |
| Catania .....   | 1,802,414,073      |   |                    |
| Bari .....  | 1,581,960,952      |   |                    |
| Trieste .....   | 1,912,679,725      |   |                    |
| Messina .....   | 1,076,808,767      |   |                    |
| <i>Communes with 200,001 to 500,000 inhabitants .....</i> | 15,821,816,283     |   |                    |

Highest expenditure *per inhabitant* is registered at Milan (10,838.4 lire), followed by Florence (10,256.8), Bologna (9,069) and Rome (8,132.1). The lowest figure is found at Andria (1,721.4 lire).

Table III shows public expenditure per branch of entertainment during the past seven years (1).

Table III – PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PER BRANCH OF ENTERTAINMENT 1950 to 1956  
(thousands of lire)

| YEAR       | Theatre   | Cinema      | Sports    | Miscellaneous | Total       |
|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| 1950 ..... | 7,252,108 | 63,404,220  | 6,009,008 | 3,211,268     | 84,876,604  |
| 1951 ..... | 7,585,608 | 73,203,418  | 6,591,976 | 8,711,829     | 96,092,831  |
| 1952 ..... | 8,554,222 | 83,672,172  | 6,693,069 | 9,754,686     | 108,674,149 |
| 1953 ..... | 9,220,200 | 94,501,722  | 7,462,603 | 10,635,989    | 121,820,515 |
| 1954 ..... | 9,376,947 | 105,172,148 | 7,911,026 | 11,699,608    | 134,159,729 |
| 1955 ..... | 9,129,271 | 116,690,729 | 8,997,141 | 12,815,534    | 147,632,675 |
| 1956 ..... | 8,814,852 | 116,021,155 | 9,099,757 | 13,694,540    | 147,630,304 |

(1) See also: *Expenditure in Entertainments in 1954*. «Italian Affairs». Vol. V No. 4, pp. 1361-1364.

## The Motion Picture Industry

The halt which has become apparent in public expenditure on entertainment has been largely responsible for the current economic situation of the motion picture industry.

It is a well-known fact that, up to 1955, the industry enjoyed a constant increase in supply and demand. In 1947, motion picture theatres sold 530 million admission tickets; this figure had risen to 819 million by 1955, showing an increase of over fifty per cent (50 %). During the same period, average admission prices went up by 60 lire to 142 lire and global receipts almost tripled, swelling from 40 to 116 milliard lire (Tab. IV).

The first set-back came towards the end of 1955. Between 1955 and 1956, the number of spectators dropped slightly from 819 to 790 million, although receipts remained stationary at 116 milliard lire, following slight modifications to average admission prices, which rose from 142 to 146 lire.

An examination of the *production* side of the industry shows that 54 films were completed in 1948, 107 in 1951 and 201 in 1954. During 1955, the number dropped to 126 and the following year brought the low figure of 105. During the first eight months of 1957, 88 films went into production, but of these 23 were the result of co-production agreements (1).

Table IV - PRODUCTION OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY  
FROM 1948 TO 1956 (features, documentaries, newsreels)

| YEAR       | Features | Docs | Newsreels | YEAR       | Features | Docs | Newsreels |
|------------|----------|------|-----------|------------|----------|------|-----------|
| 1948 ..... | 54       | 250  | 199       | 1953 ..... | 163      | 579  | 383       |
| 1949 ..... | 76       | 352  | 251       | 1954 ..... | 201      | 747  | 397       |
| 1950 ..... | 104      | 505  | 246       | 1955 ..... | 126      | 350  | 214       |
| 1951 ..... | 107      | 434  | 288       | 1956 ..... | 105      | 110  | 136       |
| 1952 ..... | 148      | 468  | 433       |            |          |      |           |

There are reasons of a more general character connected with the general European motion picture crisis. Heavy American competition, often in the form of costly technical innovations, has done much towards compromising the industry in Europe. There is also the purely domestic problem of the constant increase in the number of theatres which totalled 16,376 (10,560 private or circuit-owned, 5,449 parish and 367 belonging to cultural organizations) at December 31, 1956.

This same year proved to be one of acute difficulty for motion picture production in Italy, for the industry was intent on fighting varied forms of competition. Television, new colour and sound systems,

(1) See: *Legislation concerning the film industry* - « Italian Affairs », Vol. VI, No. 3, pp. 1733-1736.

different types of screens, foreign products — particularly American — launched with an eye to the maximum exploitation of the world market, financial difficulties encountered by production companies which led to unjustified panic and a marked decline in credit facilities with a consequent rise in interest on loans, all contributed towards a general feeling of pessimism. There is every reason to believe that the causes already illustrated have contributed more to the present static situation than any slow and inevitable evolution in public taste.

Current statistics reveal that the average Italian goes to the cinema sixteen times per year. This is higher than the attendance figures for other European nations, with the exception of Great Britain which has an average figure of 20. Italy is followed by Germany with 15.7, Belgium with 13.7 and France with 9.4. In continental Europe, Italy still has good title to the name of «the nation of film fans» and this primate has not been shaken by the many crises which have been constantly spoken about.

Table V — EXPENDITURE AND ADMISSION TICKETS SOLD  
PER INHABITANT IN 1956. DIVISION PER REGION

| REGION                      | Expenditure |                     | Tickets Sold |                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                             | Lire        | % Variation on 1955 | Lire         | % Variation on 1955 |
| Piedmont .....              | 2,683.1     | — 0.8               | 14.5         | — 4.0               |
| Valle d'Aosta .....         | 2,618.7     | + 8.6               | 14.4         | + 2.1               |
| Lombardy .....              | 2,901.2     | — 4.0               | 16.0         | — 4.8               |
| Trentino-Alto Adige .....   | 1,770.2     | + 3.5               | 11.6         | — 1.7               |
| Veneto .....                | 1,983.6     | — 2.2               | 13.7         | — 4.2               |
| Friuli-Venezia Giulia ..... | 1,861.9     | + 0.5               | 14.3         | — 2.7               |
| Trieste Territory .....     | 4,958.4     | — 10.3              | 29.0         | — 13.7              |
| Liguria .....               | 4,598.7     | + 0.8               | 27.0         | — 3.2               |
| Emilia Romagna .....        | 2,900.0     | — 1.0               | 20.0         | — 3.8               |
| Tuscany .....               | 2,869.8     | — 2.6               | 18.5         | — 5.1               |
| Umbria .....                | 1,240.1     | — 4.2               | 8.7          | — 5.4               |
| Marches .....               | 1,742.2     | + 7.0               | 14.1         | — 1.4               |
| Latium .....                | 3,899.8     | — 3.0               | 24.2         | — 6.9               |
| Abruzzi-Molise .....        | 955.7       | + 0.1               | 7.8          | — 9.3               |
| Campania .....              | 1,809.1     | — 9.0               | 14.7         | — 10.9              |
| Apulia .....                | 1,733.5     | — 1.8               | 17.6         | — 4.4               |
| Basilicata .....            | 676.0       | — 0.6               | 7.0          | — 13.6              |
| Calabria .....              | 787.4       | + 1.3               | 7.0          | — 4.1               |
| Sicily .....                | 1,963.6     | + 5.0               | 16.3         | + 1.9               |
| Sardinia .....              | 1,648.4     | + 10.3              | 13.5         | + 3.8               |
| Northern Italy .....        | 2,768.5     | — 1.9               | 16.8         | — 4.0               |
| Central Italy .....         | 2,957.5     | — 1.9               | 19.2         | — 5.4               |
| Southern Italy .....        | 1,437.6     | — 4.8               | 12.8         | — 7.9               |
| Insular Italy .....         | 1,892.4     | + 6.0               | 15.6         | + 2.0               |
| Italy ...                   | 2,358.6     | — 1.6               | 16.1         | — 4.2               |

Comparing 1955 and 1956 figures for cities with over 100,000 inhabitants, it will be seen that the factors which have already been stated illustrate the situation fairly well. The greatest contraction in the sale of admission tickets is to be seen in the southern cities. At Na



ples, for instance, ticket sales have dropped by 11.5 % and public expenditure by 10.4 %. At Bari, the decrease has been 6.2 % and 4.3 % respectively. But reasonably pronounced drops are also to be seen in the northern cities. At Trieste, sales of admission tickets show a decrease of 8.2 % and public expenditure 5.3 %, while Venice has registered contractions of 5.1 % and 3.6 % respectively. Padua registers drops of 3.5 % and 5.5 %.

Table VI - PLAYDATES, TICKETS SOLD, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, AVERAGE ADMISSION PRICES AND EXPENDITURE PER INHABITANT. PRINCIPAL CITIES OF ITALY - 1956

| CITY  | No. of Playdates | Tickets No. | Public Expenditure (lire) | Av. Price (lire) | Expenditure per inhabitant (lire) |
|---|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rome .....  | 75,179           | 63,243,080  | 11,515,056,545            | 182.1            | 6,440.2                           |
| Milan .....   | 56,454           | 43,640,870  | 9,821,585,262             | 225.1            | 7,393.7                           |
| Naples .....  | 41,229           | 25,292,300  | 4,176,984,487             | 165.1            | 3,874.5                           |
| Turin .....   | 37,149           | 23,641,910  | 5,142,015,207             | 217.5            | 6,262                             |
| Genoa .....   | 35,080           | 23,872,930  | 4,360,753,601             | 182.7            | 6,063.3                           |
| Palermo .....   | 24,419           | 14,036,270  | 2,212,374,130             | 157.6            | 4,082.7                           |
| <i>Communes with over 500,000 inhabitants</i> ..          | 269,510          | 193,727,360 | 37,228,769,232            | 192.2            | 5,931.3                           |
| Florence .....  | 23,390           | 15,721,730  | 2,869,334,450             | 182.5            | 7,207.5                           |
| Bologna .....   | 18,285           | 13,270,400  | 2,593,808,002             | 195.5            | 6,933.7                           |
| Venice .....  | 17,496           | 8,656,590   | 1,621,517,117             | 187.3            | 4,904.9                           |
| Catania .....   | 16,510           | 9,348,730   | 1,508,415,835             | 161.3            | 4,581.5                           |
| Bari .....  | 10,268           | 8,452,740   | 1,194,479,240             | 141.3            | 4,066.4                           |
| Trieste .....   | 17,235           | 8,572,080   | 1,482,289,502             | 172.9            | 5,279.2                           |
| Messina .....   | 10,140           | 5,748,180   | 889,271,824               | 154.7            | 3,785.6                           |
| <i>Communes with 200,001 to 500,000 inhabitants</i> ..... | 113,324          | 69,770,450  | 12,159,115,970            | 174.3            | 5,424.5                           |
| <i>Communes with 100,001 to 200,000 inhabitants</i> ..... | 99,464           | 58,104,450  | 9,417,543,740             | 162.1            | 4,524.3                           |
| <i>Other Communes</i> .....                               | 1,557,436        | 468,550,310 | 57,215,726,354            | 122.1            | 1,482.6                           |
| <i>Italy</i> ..   | 2,039,724        | 790,152,570 | 116,021,155,296           | 146.8            | 2,358.6                           |

Rome heads the list of cities with the maximum playingtime/tickets sold/public expenditure, but Milan shows the highest per-capita expenditure.

But there are other factors which have played their part in the current crisis of the motion picture industry. There has been an increase in the price of admission (affected by heavy taxation which rises from a minimum of 15 % to a maximum of 75 %) and a lack of good feature films which could be exploited. Admission prices show a constant rise of about 8 % per annum (from 95.8 lire in 1950 to 146.8 lire in 1956). In 1956, the average price rose from 142.6 lire to 146.8 lire while other outgoings, included under « unnecessary expenses », remained more or less stationary. It will be noted that the effective demand for motion picture entertainment rose by 19.4 %

between 1950 and 1956, and admission prices have increased uniformly everywhere by approximately 53.2 %. However, this increase becomes more marked from North to South, and passing from the large cities to small urban centres. On an average, the yearly increase is estimated at 7.4 % in provincial capitals and 8 % in other towns and urban centres, although the standard of living only rises by an average of 4.4 %. In terms of purchase power, prices have gone up by 3.9 %.

Other factors relating to the motion picture industry are, however, in direct contrast. Playdates, for example, were a little over 2 million and 1.5 % above the figure for 1955. The total of 790.2 million admission tickets sold represents a drop of 3.6 % when compared with 1955.

Table VII - PLAYDATES, TICKETS SOLD AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE PER GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION - 1956

| GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION | Provincial Capitals |                    |                           | Total for Provinces |                    |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | Play-dates (No.)    | Tickets Sold (No.) | Public Expenditure (lire) | Playdates (No.)     | Tickets Sold (No.) | Public Expenditure (lire) |
| Northern Italy .....  | 325,665             | 197,492,400        | 38,115,447,460            | 1,002,853           | 363,684,480        | 60,079,064,283            |
| Central Italy .....   | 150,859             | 105,540,630        | 18,763,188,301            | 375,773             | 172,474,170        | 26,605,767,236            |
| Southern Italy .....  | 102,677             | 64,335,160         | 9,763,398,545             | 413,302             | 159,413,160        | 17,893,206,374            |
| Insular Italy .....   | 76,500              | 44,814,830         | 6,862,795,228             | 247,806             | 94,580,760         | 11,443,117,403            |
| Italy ...             | 655,701             | 412,183,020        | 73,504,829,534            | 2,039,734           | 790,152,570        | 116,021,155,296           |

A careful examination of all the particular aspects of the Italian motion picture industry must inevitably lead to the conclusion that both 1956 and 1957 were characterized by a static market, at least as regards public expenditure. Contractions in box office receipts have dealt a heavy blow to small companies and private theatres, particularly since the latter have increased at an extremely rapid rate (1).

However, more than as a crisis, the matter should be regarded in the light of a temporary set-back. Towards the end of 1957, there were signs that the industry was picking up, and the Italian product still retains its well known artistic form, quickly recognised and appreciated on the world market. It should not be forgotten that Italian films have achieved considerable success abroad, especially on the European market. Apart from their cultural value, they also represent a certain economic accomplishment, for it is only too plain that Italy cannot sustain production programmes which call for heavy budgets.

(1) There are 10,560 motion picture theatres, owned by private exhibitors on circuits, with a total seating capacity of 4,693,679. Between 1948 and 1956, the number of theatres (1948 - 100) has increased 66 times, rising from 6,551 to the present figure. Most new motion picture theatres have been built during the past five years; others have been modernized, particularly after the introduction of new sound and screen systems.

Turning now to exports, it will be found that these dropped during 1956. Total films exported were 2,032 against 2,249 in 1955, but the 1953 level was surpassed by a wide margin (1,716). The same applies in the case of preceding years. Excluding 1949 and 1956, Italian exports of films to foreign markets have gradually increased during the past ten years. In 1946, they amounted to 121 films, in 1947 to 354, in 1948 to 827, in 1949 to 644, in 1950 to 848, in 1951 to 948, in 1952 to 1,046 and in 1954 to 2,139. Such figures lead to the conclusion that the Italian motion picture industry showed a surprising progress over a period of several years, and that only the drop in the number of feature films produced caused the contraction noted in 1956. The prestige which the industry has conquered in the recent past, the relations which have been opened with foreign industries, through various types of co-production agreements and exchange, were responsible for maintaining the important place motion picture exports hold in the general trade structure. The year 1956 showed that Italy succeeded in successfully penetrating the markets in Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, all nations in which there are large colonies of Italians. Exports figures to these three countries were 129, 109 and 96 respectively. But other nations also made a solid contribution to this export trend during 1956; Iran imported 86 films, Peru 80, Malta 73, Switzerland 64, United States 57, Holland 55, Austria and Israel 54 and Portugal 50.

Imports of foreign-made films have decreased during the past ten years. In fact, the 850 films registered in 1946 dropped to 370 in 1956. Figures for such imports of foreign product, excluding that brought into the country for distribution of a non-dubbed version, are as follows: 1946-850; 1947-794; 1948-874; 1949-669; 1950-539; 1951-342; 1952-394; 1953-359; 1954-307; 1955-309; 1956-370.

### The Theatre

The generally static situation of all forms of entertainment shows even more negative conclusions when the theatre, in all its various forms, is examined. With the exception of public expenditure (8.8 milliard lire) which dropped by 3.4 % only in respect of 1955, all the relative statistics show strident differences. The number of performances dropped from 66,200 to 58,800 (— 11.1 %) and the number of admission tickets sold from 16.6 million to 14.8 million (— 11 %). Sales of admission tickets, therefore, dropped to a level below that of 1941 and were 25.2 % under the figures for 1938. Prices alone have shown a tendency to rise. In 1956, they were 8.5 % more than those of 1955 and the average cost of a ticket increased from 550.2 lire to 596.9 lire.



Table VIII - No. OF PERFORMANCES AND TICKETS SOLD. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGE PRICES IN 1938 AND FROM 1951 TO 1956

| YEAR       | Performances |                    | Tickets Sold |                    | Public Expenditure |                    | Average Prices |                    |
|------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|            | No.          | Index No. 1938=100 | No.          | Index No. 1938=100 | Lire               | Index No. 1938=100 | Lire           | Index No. 1938=100 |
| 1938 ..... | 71,681       | 100                | 19,746,854   | 100                | 101,370,880        | 1                  | 5.1            | 1                  |
| 1951 ..... | 70,545       | 98.4               | 19,791,114   | 100.2              | 7,585,608,140      | 74.8               | 383.3          | 74.7               |
| 1952 ..... | 72,577       | 101.2              | 19,558,973   | 99                 | 8,554,221,846      | 84.4               | 437.4          | 85.3               |
| 1953 ..... | 66,190       | 92.3               | 18,995,435   | 96.2               | 9,220,200,005      | 91                 | 485.4          | 94.6               |
| 1954 ..... | 67,460       | 94.1               | 18,179,820   | 92.1               | 9,376,946,703      | 92.5               | 515.8          | 100.5              |
| 1955 ..... | 66,177       | 92.3               | 16,591,394   | 84                 | 9,129,270,855      | 90.1               | 550.2          | 107.3              |
| 1956 ..... | 58,845       | 82.1               | 14,767,964   | 74.8               | 8,814,851,733      | 87                 | 596.9          | 116.4              |

It should be noted, however, that the exceptional contraction depends, to a great extent, on a sudden and unexpected drop in the sales of tickets for operetta which, compared to 1955, decreased by as much as 39.1 %. This followed the closing of certain companies which had been active during the previous year. But, even if the data relative to operetta is left aside for the moment, the picture does not change considerably, for all forms of theatre entertainment have suffered through a drop in the number of spectators. These decreases may be calculated as follows: drama, 8.3 %; opera, 8.1 %; concerts, 3.9 %; reviews, 18.9 % and variety, 6.5 %.

Table IX - No. OF PERFORMANCES, TICKETS SOLD, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, AVERAGE PRICES AND PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE - 1956

| CITY   | Performances No. | Tickets No. | Public Expenditure Lire | Average Price | Per capita Expenditure Lire |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Rome .....   | 4,788            | 1,388,628   | 1,447,687,289           | 1,042.5       | 809.7                       |
| Milan .....  | 4,566            | 1,553,129   | 2,059,164,713           | 1,325.8       | 1,550.1                     |
| Naples .....                                       | 2,109            | 1,078,933   | 656,165,571             | 608.2         | 608.7                       |
| Turin .....  | 1,480            | 519,061     | 332,317,144             | 640.2         | 404.7                       |
| Genoa .....  | 1,173            | 420,779     | 314,747,385             | 748.0         | 437.6                       |
| Palermo .....                                      | 586              | 271,996     | 250,638,240             | 921.5         | 462.5                       |
| Communes with over 500,000 inhabitants .....       | 14,702           | 5,232,526   | 5,060,720,342           | 967.2         | 806.3                       |
| Florence .....                                     | 1,291            | 463,714     | 332,060,464             | 701.0         | 834.1                       |
| Bologna .....                                      | 831              | 298,132     | 190,898,746             | 640.3         | 510.3                       |
| Venice .....                                       | 742              | 239,440     | 137,539,866             | 574.4         | 416.0                       |
| Catania .....                                      | 1,303            | 250,106     | 161,515,595             | 645.8         | 490.6                       |
| Bari .....   | 271              | 143,144     | 120,843,066             | 844.2         | 411.4                       |
| Trieste .....                                      | 618              | 280,759     | 169,897,169             | 605.1         | 605.1                       |
| Messina .....                                      | 691              | 181,652     | 63,602,680              | 350.1         | 270.8                       |
| Communes with 200,001 to 500,000 inhabitants ..... | 5,747            | 1,866,947   | 1,176,357,586           | 630.1         | 524.8                       |
| Communes with 100,001 to 200,000 inhabitants ..... | 2,073            | 971,676     | 620,127,341             | 647.5         | 302.3                       |
| Other Communes .....                               | 36,323           | 6,696,815   | 1,948,646,464           | 291.0         | 50.5                        |
| Italy ...  | 58,845           | 14,767,964  | 8,814,851,733           | 596.9         | 179.2                       |

Considering the drop in the number of admission tickets sold, it becomes apparent that this is proportionately stronger in those Communes with less than 100,000 inhabitants (— 15.1 %) than in those with populations over this number (— 6.1 %). In general, the theatre seems to have suffered more, at least as regards attendance, in the small centres than in the large ones, and such a statement is proved by the fact that those Communes with populations of 200/500,000 have shown a small increase. This is most likely due to the greater number of primary companies, most of them enjoying financial support, which operate almost exclusively in the cities and towns.

During 1956, these primary companies (1) gave 9,614 performances (+ 3.1 % over 1955). Six million tickets were sold (— 6 %) and public expenditure amounted to 6.5 milliard lire (— 1.5 %), results which differ little from those registered for 1955. Examining the single forms of theatre entertainment given by these primary companies, drama, dialect and concerts, public attendances rose by 21.3 %, 47.3 % and 7.7 % while expenditure showed the following trend; 23.1 %, 28.8 % and 7.7 %. These variations, however, have no real importance and are mostly due to modifications made to the companies.

(1) Primary companies are considered to be those which have one or more famous actors or actresses. There are no set companies for opera and concerts, since they are generally organized by the theatres responsible. Since it is not possible to estimate the particular value of each individual artist, the title of « primary » is generally given to those companies which operate under the auspices of the chief theatres in provincial capitals, operatic organizations or well-known schools. However, such companies are generally formed round one or more famous performers. The same rule applies to concerts, the term « primary » being applied to orchestras belonging to leading conservatories and theatres.

Primary companies which performed during 1956, included the following:

*Drama:* Adani-Cimara; Benassi-Zareschi; Bonucci-Tedeschi-Valori-Vitti; Brignone-Santuuccio-Calindri-Volonghi; The Contemporary Play Company; Peppino De Filippo; De Lullo-Falk-Guarnieri-Valli; Vittorio Gassman; Institute of Ancient Drama; Institute of Popular Drama; Elsa Merlini; Morelli-Stoppa; New Thrillers; Pagnani-Villi-Ferzetti; XV International Theatre Festival; Sardinian Regional Company; Ricci-Magni-Proclemer-Albertazzi; St. Erasmus Theatre Company; Permanent Theatre of New Thrillers; Piccolo Teatro of Genoa; Piccolo Teatro of Milan; Piccolo Teatro of Naples; Piccolo Teatro of Turin; « City of Trieste » Dramatic Company; « City of Trento » Dramatic Company; « Vittoriale » Foundation; Italian Theatre Guild; « 15 Novità » Theatre; Emilian Regional Theatre; Diana Torrieri; Gaio Theatre; « The Trial of Christ » Company; Valeri-Caprioli-Salce; Alida Valli; Zareschi-Pisu-Geri; Zoppelli-Cortese-Lillo.

*Dialect:* Eduardo De Filippo; Nino Taranto; Venice Theatre Company (Baseggio); Milan Dialect Theatre; Micheluzzi.

*Operetta:* « Gran Festival » Company; International Trengi Company; R.O.S.E.S. Company; German Company of the Landes Theater of Innsbruck.

*Review:* Wanda Osiris; Billi-Riva; Tino Scotti; Rascal; Walter Chiari; Ugo Tognazzi; Erminio Macario; Carlo Dapporto; Toto; Viarisio-Barzizza; Folies Bergères.

The fact that certain of them have taken up drama and discontinued review, or have substituted the latter in order to concentrate on dialect, is undoubtedly one of the chief causes of the oscillations common to all three forms of entertainment. On the other hand, the results obtained by the primary theatre would be satisfactory were it not for the fact that it is becoming seriously weakened. This leads one to think that certain companies which are not primary are passing into that category (Table No. X).

Table X - PERFORMANCES, TICKETS, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGE PRICES FOR PRIMARY AND NON-PRIMARY THEATRE - 1956

| CATEGORY             | Primary          |             |                           |                       | Non Primary      |             |                           |                       |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|                      | No. Performances | No. Tickets | Public Expenditure (lire) | Average Prices (lire) | No. Performances | No. Tickets | Public Expenditure (lire) | Average Prices (lire) |
| Drama .....          | 4,491            | 1,591,722   | 1,396,855,176             | 877.6                 | 23,582           | 2,688,857   | 451,507,909               | 167.9                 |
| Dialect .....        | 809              | 312,626     | 245,367,306               | 784.9                 | 1,409            | 243,639     | 78,536,642                | 322.3                 |
| Opera & Ballet ..... | 990              | 1,544,511   | 2,059,046,042             | 1,333.3               | 801              | 383,858     | 257,988,897               | 672.1                 |
| Concerts .....       | 453              | 476,235     | 384,944,257               | 808.3                 | 3,556            | 945,910     | 329,131,184               | 348                   |
| Operetta .....       | 694              | 304,999     | 146,820,703               | 481.4                 | 634              | 144,045     | 30,970,241                | 215                   |
| Reviews .....        | 1,645            | 1,342,032   | 1,899,325,019             | 1,415.3               | 2,164            | 1,135,306   | 498,003,155               | 438.7                 |
| Variety .....        | 451              | 395,128     | 381,086,150               | 964.5                 | 9,178            | 2,508,025   | 573,027,777               | 228.5                 |
| Marionette .....     | 81               | 33,271      | 16,508,556                | 496.2                 | 7,411            | 626,656     | 50,946,775                | 82.3                  |
| Classical .....      | —                | —           | —                         | —                     | 496              | 91,144      | 14,785,944                | 162.2                 |
| Total ...            | 9,614            | 6,000,524   | 6,529,953,209             | 1,088.2               | 49,231           | 8,767,440   | 2,284,898,524             | 596.9                 |

Continuing this examination of the situation in the primary theatres, a little less than one third of the tickets for dramatic plays were sold in Milan (450,000) and a quarter in Rome (280,000). Other regions gave minor results. Some, such as Friuli, Umbria, Marches, the Abruzzi, Basilicata and Calabria, are cut off from the Italian theatre circuit. The same situation is to be found for opera and dialect. In the case of these two categories of entertainment, Rome beats Milan in the number of tickets sold (337,081 to 324,373), mostly because of the attraction offered by the summer opera season at the Baths of Caracalla.

Public attendance at *opera*, a form of entertainment for which Italy is famed and in which she holds first place for the brilliant musicians and singers she has given the world, oscillates considerably, with alternate increases and decreases from year to year. Statistical research has produced the important factor that the productions by leading companies have dropped numerically, while minor companies are, on the whole, responsible for an increase in their productions.

Judging the situation in relation to the nationality of the composers, the Italian school remained in the lead with 695 performances, followed by France with 71, Germany with 45, Austria with 43 and Russia with 18.



Table XI - NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES, TICKETS SOLD, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGE PRICES - OPERA AND BALLET - 1951-56

| Y E A R    | Performances<br>(no.) | Tickets<br>Sold<br>(no.) | Public<br>Expenditure<br>(lire) | Average<br>Prices<br>(lire) |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1951 ..... | 2,054                 | 2,154,696                | 1,616,788,420                   | 750.4                       |
| 1952 ..... | 2,250                 | 2,457,867                | 1,996,027,266                   | 812.1                       |
| 1953 ..... | 1,976                 | 2,402,687                | 2,090,338,577                   | 870.0                       |
| 1954 ..... | 2,066                 | 2,416,237                | 2,353,496,333                   | 974.0                       |
| 1955 ..... | 1,984                 | 2,097,930                | 2,278,717,599                   | 1,086.2                     |
| 1956 ..... | 1,791                 | 1,928,369                | 2,317,034,939                   | 1,201.6                     |

Other sectors of public entertainment, (dancing, circuses, fairs, tournaments, etc.) have shown no particular changes. Total public expenditure, in fact, reached 13.7 milliard lire, which represents an increase of 6.9 % over 1955. This increase more or less corresponds to the overall rise in consumer goods. But this particular category of entertainment, with dancing heading the list of main attractions, has suffered no competition from television.

After such a summary examination of the data relating to a particularly difficult year, it may be concluded that Italy possesses a real market for entertainment, which can be compared to those for raw materials and essential and non-essential consumer goods. Television has exercised a very strong competitive influence on this market, for it is a new type of entertainment, which is free or almost free and made available in public buildings and amusement centres. A few figures will suffice to illustrate the great development in the use of television in Italy. Between April 1956 and January 1957, the number of licensed premises furnished with television increased by 43.1% and, today, it is estimated that 70 % of all public premises are equipped with television sets. Since the halls, summer theatres and other types of premises offering public entertainment number little more than 15,000 throughout Italy, even a superficial comparison will be sufficient to realize that this entertainment has become the chief form of amusement for the people. Its draw far surpasses that of any other type of entertainment and the public can watch without having to pay any admission fee. According to the calculations of the Italian Authors and Editors Association, 61,258 premises for public entertainment applied for licences by 31.12.56. These premises include bars, restaurants, cafes, clubs and sports centres and even large shops and barbers. In such places, television is always available to the public. A break-down of these figures produces the following: bars, cafes and restaurants: 42,316 licences; clubs and social centres: 10,932; hotels: 4,371; theatres and cinemas: 2,817; large shops and other premises open to the public for sale of goods: 822.

# ITALIAN RADIO BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

| <i>Rome time</i>                                     | <i>Day</i> | <i>Programme</i>                                    | <i>Wave Lengths<br/>(*)</i> |
|--|------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR NORTH AMERICA (EAST COAST)</b>      |            |   |                             |
| 01.15-01.35  | Daily      | News Bulletin, Talk and Records                     | 19.48-25.20                 |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR NORTH AMERICA (WEST COAST)</b>      |            |   |                             |
| 03.25-03.45  | Daily      | News Bulletin, Talk and Records                     | 25.20-31.33                 |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND</b>       |            |   |                             |
| 10.00-10.15  | Daily      | News Bulletin                                       |                             |
|  | Sunday     | Talk and Neapolitan Songs                           |                             |
|  | Monday     | Symphony Music                                      | 13.91                       |
|  | Tuesday    | Opera Music   | 16.85                       |
| 10.15-10.40  | Wednesday  | Talk, Melodies and Songs                            | 19.58                       |
|  | Thursday   | Talk, varied programme                              |                             |
|  | Friday     | Light Music and Songs                               |                             |
|  | Saturday   | Request programme and Mail Bag                      |                             |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR NORTH-WEST AFRICA AND NEAR EAST</b> |            |   |                             |
| 10.20-10.40  | Daily      | News Bulletin                                       | 19.84<br>25.20              |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR THE MIDDLE AND FAR EAST</b>         |            |   |                             |
| 11.45-12.05  | Daily      | News Bulletin                                       | 13.91<br>16.88<br>19.48     |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH AFRICA</b>                    |            |   |                             |
| 16.35-16.55  | Daily      | News Bulletin                                       | 13.91<br>16.88              |
| <b>PROGRAMME FOR G. BRITAIN AND IRELAND</b>          |            |   |                             |
| 19.20-19.35  | Daily      | News Bulletin                                       |                             |
|  | Sunday     | Opera Music   |                             |
|  | Monday     | Request programme and Mail Bag                      |                             |
|  | Tuesday    | Folk Music  | 31.33                       |
| 19.35-19.40  | Wednesday  | Music   | 49.92                       |
|  | Thursday   | Talk  |                             |
|  | Friday     | Neapolitan Songs                                    |                             |
|  | Saturday   | Talk  |                             |
| 18.55-19.10  | Thursday   | Problems of NATO                                    | 30.90                       |
| 18.55-19.10  | Monday     | Problems of European Unity                          | 41.24<br>50.34              |
| <b>NOCTURNE FROM ITALY</b>                           |            |   |                             |
| 23.35-06.40  | Daily      | Varied Musical Programme; News at 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6. | 355                         |

Please note: Possible changes in times and wavelengths will be notified during our transmissions.

|     |                           |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (*) | 13.91 metres = 21.56 Mc/s | 25.40 metres = 11.81 Mc/s |
|     | 16.85 " = 17.80 "         | 30.90 " = 9.71 "          |
|     | 16.88 " = 17.77 "         | 31.33 " = 9.57 "          |
|     | 16.91 " = 17.74 "         | 41.24 " = 7.27 "          |
|     | 19.48 " = 15.40 "         | 49.50 " = 6.06 "          |
|     | 19.58 " = 15.32 "         | 49.92 " = 6.01 "          |
|     | 19.84 " = 15.12 "         | 50.34 " = 5.96 "          |
|     | 25.20 " = 11.90 "         | 355 " = 845 Kc/s          |

The three National Programmes of the RAI are broadcast on short and medium waves.  
Below is a list of the hours of transmission and the wavelengths.

|               | <i>Day</i> | <i>Time</i>                   | <i>Wavelength</i>                   |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Programme | Holidays   | 6.40-11; 12-24.10             | approx. 49.50 metres = 6.06 Mc/sec. |
|               | Weekdays   | 6.40-9; 11-14.30; 16.20-24.10 | " 31.53 " = 9.515 "                 |
| 2nd Programme | Holidays   | 8.30-12; 18-23.30             | " 41.81 " = 7.175 "                 |
|               | Weekdays   | 9-11; 13-23.30                |                                     |
| 3rd Programme | Holidays   | 16-18.30; 19-24 approx.       | " 75.09 " = 3.995 "                 |
|               | Weekdays   | 19-24 approx.                 |                                     |

## BOOK PRODUCTION IN 1956

## Progress in Italian Publishing

Data published (1) by the National Central Library of Florence show that in 1956 Italian book production increased considerably, especially works on politics, economics, and social sciences which head the list.

10,032 of the books published in 1956 were originally written in Italian; 1,877 are translations from other languages. 565 are in foreign languages – 152 of them in English, 136 in French, 91 in German, 77 in Latin, 33 in Spanish, 11 in Slovene, 4 in Russian, 3 in Greek, in Polish, and in Portuguese, 2 in Croat and in Rumanian, 1 in Czech, in Esperanto, and in Hungarian.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS ACCORDING TO SUBJECT

|                                   | 1938  | 1952  | 1953    | 1954    | 1955    | 1956   |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Econ., Pol., Soc. Sciences .....  | 770   | 668   | 714     | 574     | 653     | 1,218  |
| Narrative by living authors ....  | 813   | 662   | 781     | 637     | 758     | 988    |
| Archaeology, Arts .....           | 381   | 507   | 528     | 485     | 592     | 931    |
| Religious books .....             | 488   | 530   | 388     | 468     | 454     | 887    |
| Juridical Science .....           | 958   | 575   | 512     | 429     | 530     | 867    |
| Poetry .....                      | 403   | 669   | 598     | 602     | 598     | 815    |
| Childrens' books .....            | 305   | 612   | 582     | 452     | 620     | 744    |
| Agric., Industry, Commerce ....   | 529   | 361   | 396     | 425     | 448     | 736    |
| Medical Science .....             | 602   | 426   | 427     | 451     | 459     | 711    |
| School books .....                | 802   | 537   | 477     | 466     | 484     | 654    |
| Theology, Philosophy .....        | 367   | 441   | 382     | 420     | 327     | 564    |
| History .....                     | 628   | 397   | 353     | 375     | 349     | 519    |
| Literature .....                  | —     | 340   | 343     | 396     | 501     | 507    |
| Philology, Lit. Crit. ....        | 648   | 465   | (a) 410 | (a) 421 | 419     | 456    |
| Maths., Phys., Nat. Sciences .... | 295   | 293   | 323     | 274     | 375     | 444    |
| Pedagogy .....                    | 222   | 337   | 285     | 246     | 264     | 392    |
| Technology .....                  | 298   | 251   | 237     | 296     | 224     | 357    |
| Geography, Travel .....           | 201   | 182   | 195     | 265     | (b) 343 | 340    |
| Bibliography .....                | 90    | 107   | 110     | 133     | 140     | 184    |
| Theatre .....                     | 217   | 186   | 171     | 192     | 203     | 176    |
| Various .....                     | 120   | 138   | 130     | 164     | 132     | 135    |
| Phys. Ed., Sport .....            | 45    | 73    | 48      | 89      | 86      | 108    |
| Polygraphy .....                  | 76    | 65    | 31      | 58      | 81      | 93     |
| Hist. of Music .....              | —     | —     | —       | —       | 66      | 89     |
| Domestic Econ. ....               | 43    | 51    | 71      | 89      | 70      | 87     |
| Contemporary biography .....      | 263   | 133   | 87      | 89      | 116     | 86     |
| War .....                         | 168   | 21    | 20      | 18      | 28      | 33     |
| Total ...                         | 9,736 | 9,047 | 8,599   | 8,514   | 9,320   | 13,121 |

Periodicals, cartographical and musical publications, and Academic papers are not included.

(a) In 1953 and 1954, 353 and 353 on Philology, and 57 and 63 on History and Musical Criticism respectively. (b) Specifically: 273 (293 vols.) on Travel, Popular Traditions, and Tourism, and 70 (77 vols.) on Geography in 1955; and 287 (309 vols.) on Travel, Popular Traditions and Tourism, and 53 (57 vols.) on Geography in 1956.

(1) In *Statistica delle pubblicazioni italiane ricevute per diritto di stampa* – Firenze (Statistics on Italian publications received under copyright laws – Florence). For data about preceding years see: *Book publication in Italy in 1955*. «Italian Affairs», Vol. VI, No. 1, pp. 1591-1594.



## TRANSLATIONS INTO ITALIAN FROM THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

|                  | 1938 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| English .....    | 263  | 432  | 425  | 554  | 507  | 537  | 707  |
| French .....     | 264  | 365  | 280  | 332  | 306  | 328  | 574  |
| German .....     | 176  | 153  | 144  | 158  | 154  | 144  | 254  |
| Latin .....      | 64   | 53   | 104  | 55   | 50   | 63   | 106  |
| Greek .....      | 53   | 26   | 51   | 31   | 35   | 35   | 66   |
| Russian .....    | 21   | 61   | 52   | 38   | 26   | 44   | 47   |
| Spanish .....    | 20   | 20   | 19   | 24   | 24   | 25   | 36   |
| Hungarian .....  | 20   | 7    | 7    | 10   | 7    | 9    | 11   |
| Portuguese ..... | 2    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 12   | 8    | 7    |
| Danish .....     | 9    | 14   | 16   | 17   | 11   | 12   | 7    |
| Chinese .....    | —    | —    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 3    | 7    |
| Polish .....     | 4    | 4    | 6    | 7    | 4    | 4    | 6    |
| Czech .....      | —    | 4    | 6    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 5    |
| Japanese .....   | 2    | 2    | 2    | —    | 1    | 2    | 5    |
| Hebrew .....     | —    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 2    | 4    | 5    |

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER COPYRIGHT REGULATIONS

|                                      |                               | 1938   | 1951   | 1952   | 1953   | 1954   | 1955   | 1956   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Non-periodical publications          | Various .....                 | 9,736  | 9,613  | 9,047  | 8,599  | 8,514  | 9,320  | 13,121 |
|                                      | Musical .....                 | 615    | 402    | 449    | 345    | 596    | 630    | 863    |
|                                      | Cartographical .....          | —      | 20     | 183    | 28     | 48     | 578    | 286    |
| Periodicals                          | Academic papers ...           | 50     | 121    | 78     | 83     | 110    | 93     | 103    |
|                                      | New periodicals .....         | —      | 792    | 789    | 632    | 667    | 650    | 763    |
|                                      | Established periodicals ..... | 247    | 4,299  | 6,443  | 7,321  | 7,806  | 8,594  | 8,310  |
|                                      |                               | 10,648 | 15,247 | 16,989 | 17,008 | 17,741 | 19,865 | 23,446 |
| Minor non-descript periodicals ..... |                               | 50,141 | 18,851 | 16,563 | 18,103 | 28,683 | 35,328 | 45,426 |
| Total...                             |                               | 60,789 | 34,098 | 33,552 | 35,111 | 46,424 | 55,193 | 68,872 |

Musical publications show a remarkable increase.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS PER REGION

|                                   | 1938  | 1952  | 1953  | 1954  | 1955    | 1956      |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-----------|
| Lombardy .....                    | 2,175 | 2,804 | 2,723 | 2,447 | 2,632   | 3,595     |
| Lazio .....                       | 1,715 | 1,731 | 1,490 | 1,555 | 1,682   | 2,768     |
| Piedmont, Aosta Valley .....      | 1,120 | 1,070 | 1,089 | 1,058 | 1,152   | 1,428     |
| Tuscany .....                     | 1,138 | 994   | 1,008 | 916   | 1,030   | 1,194     |
| Trentino, Venetia, Upper Adige .. | 984   | 615   | 512   | 594   | (a) 716 | (b) 1,027 |
| Emilia & Romagna .....            | 604   | 475   | 510   | 601   | 626     | 946       |
| Campania .....                    | 592   | 358   | 369   | 376   | 395     | 596       |
| Sicily .....                      | 369   | 370   | 319   | 324   | 327     | 483       |
| Umbria .....                      | 239   | 103   | 177   | 176   | 213     | 313       |
| Liguria .....                     | 213   | 178   | 98    | 144   | 124     | 212       |
| Apulia .....                      | 197   | 136   | 113   | 134   | 169     | 206       |
| Marches .....                     | 104   | 85    | 72    | 59    | 89      | 109       |
| Abruzzi and Molise .....          | 99    | 21    | 42    | 60    | 81      | 107       |
| Sardinia .....                    | 33    | 42    | 35    | 33    | 36      | 70        |
| Calabria .....                    | 47    | 49    | 42    | 31    | 39      | 55        |
| Basilicata .....                  | 6     | 6     | —     | 6     | 9       | 12        |
| Total...                          | 9,635 | 9,047 | 8,599 | 8,514 | 9,320   | 13,121    |

(a) 88 in Trentino-Upper Adige, 508 in Venetia, and 12 in Friuli-Venetia Giulia. (b) 122 in Trentino-Upper Adige, 709 in Venetia, and 196 in Friuli-Venetia Giulia.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ITALY

Any season brings many tourists to Italy. These visitors may find added pleasure if they are able to see some of the following folklore, cultural, artistic, religious and sporting important forthcoming events.

## APRIL AND MAY 1958

## MUSIC

## FOLK-DANCING FESTIVAL

Next April, Cagliari will be the scene of the Italian Folk-Dancing Festival. This exceptional event, planned by E.N.A.L. and organized by the Cagliari Recreation Department, will be held in conjunction with a Nazionale Study Conference on Folk Dances. The Festival itself will be a gloriously colorful affair, bright with the heritage of art and ancient lore of which every region of Italy is so justly proud. However, colorful spectacles will not be the only attraction of the Festival. The study Conference which will take place at the same time will bring together the top-ranking scholars of Italian folk-dancing, and will provide an opportunity for real research and investigation on the basis of sound historical fact.

The Festival will show folklore art of all the regions of Italy, as presented by carefully chosen examples of all kinds. It will also include the traditional religious celebrations which have always been so closely linked with Italian folklore festivals. In other words, the folk-dances will be presented on the basis of their intrinsic interest and merits, whether their inspirations be sacred or profane.

The study Conference, on the other hand, will make it possible to weed out the corrupting influences which tend to destroy the genuineness of the folk-dance, and to bring it back to the freshness of its early primitive state.

For the 4th International «Alfredo Casella» Piano Competition, young pianists from all over the world will come together in Naples from April 15th to 23rd. The Competition, organized by the Naples Academy of Music, is 25 years old this year. The Academy is planning to observe this silver anniversary with a special concert season.

## FOLKLORE

At Ladispoli (Rome), April 20th brings the traditional Artichoke Festival, when the succulent vegetable that grows best in that sandy soil is at its luscious prime. Visitors from all over Italy flock to the tiny seaside town to sample artichokes «alla giudia» or «alla romana». But besides the pleasures of the table, there is an Artichoke Show, a parade of allegorical floats, costume dances, an exhibition of handicrafts, a livestock show, a farm machinery exhibition, a dairy show, and, of course, it all winds up with magnificent fireworks over the sea.

At Orsogna (Chieti), April 8th is the Feast of the «Talamì». (The talami are seven huge wooden platforms, each carried on the shoulders of thirty men). On these portable stages, groups of chil-

dren in bright costumes act scenes from the Old and New Testaments, to the accompaniment of a choir of young girls singing hymns. This is a typical spring festival, with its air of youth and hope. Carts drawn by white bullocks, wreathed in flowers and ribbons, follow the talami, and the peasants riding in the carts scatter blessed lavender sprigs among the spectators.

In Paganica (L'Aquila), April 8th is the Feast of the Madonna of Appari. A solemn procession goes to her shrine, just outside the town. The little church is partly hollowed out of the rock, and dates back to the 12th and 14th centuries. It has some very fine frescoes.

Ragusa celebrates the Feast of St. George on April 23rd. In a lively dramatization, the warrior saint who is the city's patron slays the dragon, and puts to flight the evils of Plague, Hunger, and Thirst. Besides the colorful drama, there are athletic contests, fireworks, and other events.

The Feast of St. Mark in Venice falls on April 25th, and is the Lagoon City's welcome to spring. Traditionally, the cavalier offers a bouquet of roses to the lady of his heart on that day. It is also the opening day of the gondola races on the sparkling lagoons.

At Terni, a parade of allegorical floats on April 30th marks the Cantamaggio, or May Song, with its traditional hail to spring. Flowers of every hue are the keynote of the festival, which celebrates the earth's glad awakening from the icy grip of winter.

Caresana and Avigliano, in the province of Vercelli, hold oxen races in honor of St. George, who freed both towns from a terrible plague that struck men and beasts alike. At the end of April in Caresana, and in the first ten days of May at Avigliano, four carts drawn by four yokes of oxen race over a 300-meter course, goaded on by the best young drivers of the town.

The first of May is celebrated with great pomp at Cagliari, as the 302nd Anniversary of the Feast of St. Epheseus, patron saint of the city, which legend says he saved from the plague in 1656. A statue of the saint is borne in a chariot to the Church of Pula, where St. Epheseus suffered martyrdom. Here, the pilgrims do honor to a fabulous feast, which usually consists of more than ten courses. Then on the fourth of May, the statue is escorted back to Cagliari. The most colorful aspect of the pilgrimage is the gay costumes worn by the marchers, most of them peasants from the Campidano. Then, of course, there is the carriage, all decked with garlands and with ribbons, drawn by yokes of oxen, and the joyous wail of the typical Sardinian flutes, the «launeddas». Then,

on the 11th, the festivities end with traditional races between matched teams of horses on the «Viale del Buon Cammino».

**The Sardinian Cavalcade**, a splendid parade dating back to 1711, the last years of Spanish rule, takes place in Sassari on May 15th, Ascension Thursday. People come from all over Sardinia to take part, and more than sixty towns, their bright costumes unchanged in all these years, are represented. The parade is made up of individual riders, couples on horseback, and groups in gala costume riding in the characteristic peasant carts drawn by garlanded oxen. Besides the parade itself, there are many side attractions, such as exhibitions of Sardinian dances and folk songs, lasting until late in the night in all the main squares of the city, to the accompaniment of accordions and «launeddas», the Sardinian shepherds' pipes.

**The Serenade of Calendimaggio at Assisi (Perugia)** takes place on the night of April 30th and is one of Italy's most evocative historical festivals. The city is divided for the occasion into the medieval «upper town» and «lower town». On the evening of the 29th, long processions of «messerii» and «madonne», escorted by knights and archers, challenge each other to musical and song competitions in the Piazza del Comune, all to welcome in the month of May. The prize is awarded, on the evening of May Day, to the winning half of the town. This celebration is linked to a cherished tradition, which says that St. Francis, in his early youth, used to stroll through the streets of the town singing serenades by night. The story is found in the Saint's earliest biographies, and recounts that it was during one of these nocturnal excursions that he had the vision of the lady who was to rule his heart: «Dame Poverty».

**The Fish Festival at Camogli (Genoa)** takes place on the 11th of May, the Feast of St. Fortunato. It is a merry occasion, and the star of the show is the giant 15-foot frying pan, in which the townspeople fry thousands of pounds of fish to treat all comers to the feast. This genial custom dates from the last war, when the townspeople made a vow to observe it every year, if their young men came back safely from a fishing trip into mined waters.

**The Wedding of the Sea, at Cervia (Ravenna)** on May 15th recalls a miracle that took place in 1446, on Ascension Day. The Bishop of Ravenna, being in danger of shipwreck, miraculously calmed the angry waters by casting his episcopal ring into the sea. Each year since then, the Bishop of Ravenna, accompanied by his clergy, goes out into the water in a barge, blesses the sea, and casts his own episcopal ring into the waves. A local sailor, chosen for his skill, immediately dives in and brings back the ring.

**The Cricket Festival, which is celebrated in Florence on May 15th, Ascension Thursday**, takes place in the beautiful Cascine. Its origin was the necessity for organizing the local citizens to do battle with the hordes of crickets that infested the great Medici estates. Today, however, things have changed indeed, since the crickets are no longer destroyed, but sold by «grillai», or cricket-vendors. These enterprising people cap-

ture the tuneless insects, and house them in pretty little cages of wood or wire to sell to the merry-makers at the Festival.

**The Football Game in Costume that takes place in the Boboli Gardens in Florence on May 4th** is repeated on the 24th and 28th of June in the Piazza della Signoria. This curious custom dates back to February 17th 1530, when the Florentines ostentatiously put on a football match in Piazza Santa Croce to show their disdain for the imperial troops who were the laying siege to the city.

**At the Feast of St. Alfio, held at Trecastagni (Catania), from May 8th to 10th**, the most colorful event on the program is the parade of Sicilian carts, when the already brilliant peasant carts are even more gaudily decorated with ribbons and garlands. Perhaps the oddest is the procession of the «nudi», penitents clad in the scantiest of garments, most of them deaf-mutes; this singular event takes place on the night of the 9th, by the light of waxen candles carried by each penitent.

**The Candle Race at Gubbio, on May 15th**, held in honor of the town's patron, St. Ubaldo, is a ceremony as picturesque as it is full of penitential ardor. It recalls Gubbio's miraculous victory over the eleven confederate cities in 1152, thanks to its Bishop, St. Ubaldo. Nowadays, the place of the huge wax candles is taken by three great wooden towers, each over twelve feet tall and weighing 800 pounds, which are carried up a dizzyingly steep track by 40 sturdy bearers each. The race ends with the victory of one of the three guilds competing: the masons, the tradespeople, or the peasants. The winning team, representing St. Ubaldo, St. George, or St. Anthony, determines the town's luck for the coming year.

**On May 7th, Bari puts on a splendid costume parade to mark the translational Feast of the Bones of St. Nicholas**, patron saint of the city. The relics were brought from the East in 1087 by the Benedictine Abbot Elia. There is one particularly striking ceremony which takes place at sea: the statue of the Saint, on the following morning, is brought out of the Basilica and accompanied by a great crowd down to the pier, where it is put aboard a gaily decorated barge, and rowed to a nearby beach, followed by a number of smaller boats. The Feast of St. Nicholas falls within the Bari May Festival, which includes certain events of international fame, sports competitions, the great Flower Parade, a fabulous spectacle of fireworks over the sea, and many others.

**The Feast of the Pardon is held at Ortona (Chieti) on the 4th of May**. It commemorates the prodigious miracle through which St. Thomas saved the city by changing the Saracen cannonballs into juicy oranges. On the feastday, the silver-coated statue of the Patron Saint is first exposed to the public, then carried in procession through the city streets.

**The Miracle of St. Januarius, or «San Gennaro»** takes place three times each year, on May 3rd, September 19th, and December 16th, amid scenes of mystery and exaltation. The May recurrence



of the miracle is hailed with three solemn processions from the Cathedral to the Church of Santa Chiara. The blood of St. Januarius is kept in two glass ampoules in the chapel of the 14th-century Cathedral, locked in a jewelled casket whose three keys are kept by the Archbishop, the Mayor of Naples, and a deputy.

## EXIBITIONS AND FAIRS

The big news at the next Bologna Fair, which runs from May 8th to 22nd, will be the International Food Salon in the Palace of King Enzo. The Salon will include exhibits of the world's most famous brands of comestibles, and a show of antique and contemporary silverware. This latter will include the newest and most fanciful in modern table-ware, plus a number of precious antique pieces of great artistic and historical interest, many of them exhibited for the first time in Italy. This unusual display will certainly prove of interest to the casual visitor, as well as to those who come to Bologna expressly to attend the Fair.

The climax of the Fair will be the Gourmet's Festival, the great showcase of Italian cuisine. This twelfth edition bids fair to eclipse all preceding events, and to add fresh laurels to the international fame of this annual event.

The Bologna Fair will be based on five different international sections: food, agriculture, machinery, clothing industry, as well as separate sectors for furnishings, building, and sport.

The Tenth Sardinian Samples Fair takes place in Cagliari from March 16th to 30th. As in past years, the Fair will be a show-case for the Island's widely-varied products, and at the same time will exhibit mainland products used in Sardinia.

The high-points among the April and May fairs will be the following big events: the International Handicrafts Market at Florence April 24th to May 14th which includes the finest of Italian handicrafts, plus the cream of foreign products; the 20th Modena Fair, show-case for the vast and varied products of the busy province of Emilia, which runs from April 20th to May 1st; the 13th Mediterranean International Sam-

ples Fair, from May 25th to June 10th, when Palermo exhibits the products of all the nations whose interests touch the Mediterranean Basin.

The International Toy Show, organized by the International Messina Samples Fair Autonomous Association, will take place from May 11th to 18th.

Ever since its institution, this fair has attracted the attention of many foreign countries. Their toy industries are represented in the pretty pavilions of the fair-grounds. The most beautiful toys in the world will be gathered there on the shores of the sun-drenched Straits of Messina.

Some towns in the Susa Valley (San Giorgio, Giaglione, Turin) celebrate St. George's Day (April 23rd) with the Festa degli Spadonari. This festival recalls the popular revolt against a feudal lord who cruelly oppressed his vassals. The celebration ends with a dance by the young men of the town in colorful costumes, armed with huge sabres.

## SPORT

The sports calendar for March, April, and May is a full one, not to say crowded. On the busy agenda for the smart resort of Sestriere, top events are the classic Motor Rally, from February 24th to March 1st; the Green and Black Gala, which winds up the great exhibition ski tournament, in which master skiers go through their paces to the despair, or inspiration, of the beginner and the big «Carosello». on March 22nd, when skiers say a springtime farewell to the classic slopes for another year.

In Sardinia, March 4th brings the international cycling classic, the Sassari-Cagliari race; on March 19th, the Milan-San Remo race gets cycling fans out to cheer their favorites; Merano plays host, from April 18th to 20th, to the International Spring Motor Rally; in Rome, during the last ten days of April, Piazza di Siena is the scene of the great International Horse Show, with riders from all over the world entered in the many competitions; On April 25th, the 8th International Motor Grand Prix will be run; the 25th Thousand-Mile Motor Race, the famous Mille Miglia, will be run at Brescia on the 11th and 12th of May; Palermo's Targa Florio classic will be run on May 8th the uphill motor races from Palermo to Monte Pellegrino will be held again on May 15th.

## BOOK TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Those persons living outside Italy who wish to subscribe to Italian periodicals and magazines, or who wish to purchase books in Italy, may write directly to the respective publishing house or a library specialized in furnishing overseas readers. Two excellent examples are Libreria Hoepli of Rome (Largo Chigi, 15) and Milan (Via Mameli, 13), and Libreria Dedalo of Rome (Via Barberini, 75). Upon receiving the order, the publisher or library concerned will send the book or magazine required, together with the bill which must be paid in accordance with present currency regulations governing either the dollar or sterling areas.



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# CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

JANUARY 1958

1. - The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, sent a New Year message to the Nation. President Gronchi said that the year 1957 had witnessed tremendous labours on the part of everyone. He went on to observe that the New Year may be regarded with confidence, the more so because «everyone is determined, each in his own way, to hasten a solution for those problems which represent the aspirations of the people and call for the attention of the country's leaders».

5. - The National Assembly of the Electoral Committee of the Christian Democrat Party opened in Bologna. In a speech for the occasion, the Political Secretary, Amintore Fanfani, illustrated the activity of the Party during the period of the present government. He remarked that, with the forthcoming elections, the Christian Democrat Party must show that it is much stronger, «sufficiently strong,» he said, «to permit at least part of our possible allies liberty of action.»

7. - The Italian press commented widely on the communiqué issued after a meeting of the member countries of the European Common Market and Euratom in Paris. The communiqué stated that Italians had been appointed to three important offices: Piero Malvestiti - Vice President of the Committee for the European Economic Community; Professor Enrico Medi - Vice-President of Euratom; Pietro Campilli, present Minister for the Southern Italy Development Fund - President of the European Investments Bank. Another Italian, Petrilli, was nominated member of the Committee for the Common Market.

9. - The Rome Town Council elected Urbano Ciocchetti as Mayor to succeed Senator Umberto Tupini.

10. - The Italian Cabinet met to listen to a report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Giuseppe Pella, on the decisions taken dur-

ing the recent conference of Foreign Ministers of the six member countries of the European Community. The Prime Minister, Senator Adone Zoli, observed that the official appointments received by Italians correspond to the importance of this country to the Community. He congratulated the Foreign Minister on his excellent work at the conference and expressed his appreciation over the results obtained. The Cabinet willingly associated itself with the words of the Prime Minister.

15. - A further Cabinet meeting was followed by this official communiqué: «The Prime Minister, Senator Zoli, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Giuseppe Pella, have illustrated the message received from Marshal Bulganin on December 13 last, and also informed Ministers of the talks which have been going on with the Allied nations over that question. The Cabinet has approved the reply made by the Prime Minister, which will be handed to the Moscow authorities, by the Italian Ambassador, within the next few days».

16. - The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, gave an official reception at the Quirinal for State officials and members of the Government to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic.

19. - The text of the official Italian reply to the Note received from Marshal Bulganin was made public today. The reply emphasizes the defensive character of the Atlantic Pact and affirms that «the policy of the Italian Government is a policy of peace which is both realistic and constructive». The reply by the Italian Prime Minister concluded as follows: «But I should like you to realize immediately that the Italian Government considers it absolutely necessary that no stone be left unturned in seeking to improve the present international situation and is convinced that even a partial agreement may always be useful,



providing that it furnishes concrete and irrevocable guarantees regarding the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the interested nations and non-interference in their internal affairs. These are elements which are essential to peaceful co-existence and nothing must be done which hinders their realization ».

23. - The Cabinet met to approve the provisional Budget for 1958-59 which

foresees a reduction of 70 milliard lire in the National Debt.

24. - «Apprentice Day» was celebrated throughout Italy with meetings to discuss problems concerning minors who are beginning professional and technical training. The Prime Minister, Senator Zoli, and the Minister of Labour, Gui, took part in celebrations held at Florence.

## FEBRUARY 1958

1. - The President of the Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, arrived in Cagliari on an official visit. On his arrival he was welcomed by the President of the Sardinian Regional Council, Corrias, the President of the Region, Brotzu, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Southern Italy Development Fund, Pietro Campilli, and the deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Rapelli. The programme for the visit included the inauguration of the Flumendosa Dam, an important project which has been financed by the Southern Italy Development Fund and which will permit the irrigation of large areas of farmland.

3. - President Gronchi concluded his official visit to Sardinia. At Nuoro, replying to a speech of welcome from the local authorities, he recalled the progress made in the island and added: «The southern provinces are not only a political pledge but also a human one. It is our desire that Italy shall truly be a Mother to all her subjects». President Gronchi was accompanied by the Prime Minister, Adone Zoli.

13. - The Committee of Ministers for Extra-ordinary Public Works in North and Central Italy met for talks which were attended by the Prime Minister, Senatore Zoli. The Chairman of the Committee, Pietro Campilli, illustrated the proposals put forward by the Minister of Public Works, Togni, and the programme for road and hydraulic undertakings in the area. This programme, approved by the Committee, foresees an expenditure of 95 milliard lire.

15. - The Minister for State Participations, Senator Bo, replying in the Senate to a question put by a Communist member, stated that nearly all industrial undertakings backed by public investments, have withdrawn from the Federation of Italian Industries which is now concerned solely with private enterprise.

16. - The Italian press commented on the reply sent by the Prime Minister Senator Zoli to the Note received from Marshal Bulganin on January 8. The reply was handed to the Soviet Government by the Italian Ambassador in Moscow. It said that the Italian Government is favourably inclined towards a summit meeting should preliminary discussions guarantee agreement on questions concerning the building up of a solid structure of peace and security.

23. - Official ceremonies in Rome accompanied the handing over of the colours of the Volunteer Corps of Liberty to the Risorgimento Museum in Piazza Venezia. The Prime Minister read out a message from President Gronchi which emphasized the meaning and historical value of the Resistance Movement.

25. - During a Cabinet meeting held today, the Prime Minister read out a letter of resignation from the Minister for the Southern Italy Development Fund, Pietro Campilli, following his appointment as President of the European Investments Bank. The Cabinet fully approved a proposal that the Prime Minister should temporarily assume control of the Fund.

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## EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: Via Veneto 56 - ROMA - Telef. 489.171

Annual subscription: (in Great Britain) 7s 6d.; (in U.S.A. and Canada) \$ 1.

Per copy: (in Great Britain) 1s 6d.; (in U.S.A. and Canada) 15 cents.

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Printed by ISTITUTO POLIGRAFICO DELLO STATO - Via Gino Capponi - ROME



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